LEARNING / G4
Ayala grooms young leaders in 12th national congress

BUSINESS / B2-1
10 things Juan de la Cruz needs to know about the economy in 2010

WORLD / A27
Teenage Spanish matador kills 6 bulls in 1 afternoon

SPORTS / A30
RP pool aces rip Russia, face Britain in finals

ACROSS / A17
CHEd asked to regulate nursing test of repeaters

Ping somewhere in Asia, says NBI

By Jeannette I. Andrade and Christine O. Avendaño

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIgation says Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson may be hiding in a nearby Asian country, but don't be surprised if you don't immediately recognize him: He may be wearing a moustache or even a wig.

PAGE A11

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, February 8, 2010 ✦✦ 10 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 62 P18

Survey front-runners no-show in debate

By Nikko Dizon

IT WAS THE KIND OF FORUM THAT EMbodied the tallenders in the presidential race to get back at the front-runners.

For sure, it gave Sen. Richard Gordon a chance to take a dig at the two opinion poll leaders—Senators Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III and Manuel "Mar-

SURVEY, A20

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL Expected to talk about their platforms and positions in the Inquirer-sponsored presidential debate today are (from left, in alphabetical order) aspirants Sen. Benigno Aquino III, Councilor JC de los Reyes, former President Joseph Estrada, Senators Richard Gordon and Maria Ana Consuelo Madrigal, environmentalist Nicanor Perlas, former Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, evangelist Bro. Eddie Villanueva and Sen. Manuel Villar.

Presidential bets face toughest test

GMA still for Gibo, says Palace

By Christine V. Esguerra, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Nikko Dizon

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY SOUGHT to distance President Macapagal-Arroyo from Sen. Manuel Villar amid speculations that she was backing the Nacionalista Party's presidential candidate instead of the administration's own standard-bearer.

Gary Olivar, deputy presidential spokesperson, said Ms Arroyo remained a strong supporter of former Defense Secretary Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro, the presidential candidate of the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD who remained at the bottom of recent surveys.

SPIN STILL, A20

Safe karaoke singing? Simply skip 'My Way'

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—AFTER A DAY of barbering, Rodolfo Gregorio went to his neighborhood karaoke bar still smelling of talcum powder.

But Gregorio, 63, a witness to countless fist fights and occasional stabbings erupting from disputes over karaoke singing, did

SAFE, A11

PDI readers send online questions

By John Nery

HUNDREDS OF INQUIRER and Inquirer.net readers using an online form have sent in questions they want candidates to answer today during what is touted to be the toughest presidential debate ahead of the May 10 elections.

The 2,000-seat University of the Philippines Theater in Diliman, Quezon City, is expected to be jampacked, judging from the lack of returned tickets for the Inquirer's first-ever presidential debate in its 24 years of existence. The debate is scheduled to start at 10 a.m.

Charito Alvarado of Hagonoy, Bulacan, wanted front-runner Sen. Benig-

PRESIDENTIAL, A19

HELP FOR DETAINEES Relatives of Reynaldo Macabeenta, Ma. Teresa Quinanayan and 41 others arrested in a military raid in Morong, Rizal, appeal for help in a press conference.

Kin of 43 health workers go to SC

By Nancy Carvajal, Marlowe Cleves, Inquirer Southern Luzon and Nikko Dizon

RELATIVES AND COLLEAGUES OF 43 people, including two doctors, a nurse and a midwife, are set to file petitions for writs of amparo and of habeas corpus before the Supreme Court today for what they called illegal arrests of the health workers by a joint team of the military and police in Morong, Rizal.

The military said it rounded up the health workers on Saturday because of their alleged links with the communist New People's Army (NPA).

"We will file a case for them (the authorities) to produce and release

KIN OF, A12

TALK TO US Let's start a conversation going in the run-up to the 2010 elections. We have got to make it a life-and-country changing experience. So, please share your opinions. Fill out the form below to appear in the Inquirer 3 times a week starting this week. Monthly, our research department will collate results which will be printed in the Inquirer. Entries with marks ideas/innovative approach/provocative opinions will receive surprise prizes.

Villar above rules of Senate on disciplinary action

By Amando Doronila

CHARGES AGAINST FOUR MEMbers of Parliament in Britain for falsely claiming parliamentary expenses are making the foundations of the United Kingdom's political system.

The political storm over the "dishonest claims" of the MPs involved three from the ruling Labor Party and one from the Tory Party.

The storm erupted at the same time that the Philippine Senate (an institution that has great pretensions as a bulwark of democracy) is split over a report of its top committee finding that one of its senior members, Manuel Villar, is guilty of unethical conduct in relation to the C-5 road extension project.

ANALYSIS

The Senate committee of the whole, which includes 22 senators, has recommended the censure of Villar for transactions of his real estate companies associated with the project.

The circumstances surrounding the charges against the four

British MPs are different from those surrounding the case against Villar, but these essentially involve ethical issues.

The purpose of this report is to illustrate the contrasting manner by which the British Parliament, the mother of all parliaments, and the Philippine Senate are handling cases involving recu-

VILLAR, A22

'Snowmageddon' blankets US capital in white

WASHINGTON—SKIERS LAPPED THE REflecting Pool along the National Mall, where used the steps of the Lincoln Memorial for a slope. Hundreds crowded Dupont Circle for a snowball fight organized online, while elsewhere the capital's famed avenues were all but desolate.

Washington took on a surreal, almost magical feel as it was buried under 61 centimeters (24 inches) of snow on Saturday in one of the worst blizzards in the city's history.

The nearly 46 cm (18 in) recorded at Reagan National Airport was the fourth-highest storm total for the city. At nearby Dulles International Airport, the record was shattered with 81 cm (32 in) of snow.

SNOWMAGEDDON, A4

SNOW SWEPT Travis Grout uses his cross-country skis to get around the West Front of the Capitol in Washington.

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

PCSO

2D 22 21 | 14 19 | 4 14

Ultra Lotto 6/58 SUPERLOTTO 6/45

3 5 4 | 2 2 2

4D 6 5 4

SUPER LOTTO 6/49

3 14 25 27 35 38

P153,095,252.40

Gibo aunt bares husband Danding's pain

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—"ANYBODY BUT GIBO...ANYBODY BUT HIM," said Gretchen Ognen Cojuangco, wife of business tycoon Edwardo "Danding" Cojuangco, when asked by reporters here whom she would support for president in the May 10 elections.

Gibo,the nickname of the administration party's standard-bearer, Gilbert Teodoro, is a nephew of Cojuangco's.

Gretchen told reporters that in so as she was concerned, Teodoro would always be "the person who abandoned her husband."

"I feel bad for my husband because Gibo left him hanging in a word in his needs who helped and supported him (in his political career) for nine years," she said.

Teodoro, the only son of Danding Cojuangco's younger sister Mercedes, began his political career in 1998 as a congressman of Tarlac under the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), the party founded by his uncle.

A Malvar-El-raised lawyer and a professional pilot, Teodoro was appointed secretary of national defense by President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2007. He bolted Cojuangco's NPC last year and joined the administration's Lakas-Kampi-CMD, which later named him its standard-bearer.

"My husband had big plans for him," recalled Gretchen.

Dati bida, ito na ang kalaban dapat magpapatibi nasi ha. Don't it that in our culture we have to say thank you) to those who helped you, or you ask permission before you have to pursue your endeavors? Ito wala at kay si ha. But he did not say a word," she said of Teodoro.

"Even I acknowledge me. I am just speaking about what I feel as a wife...how much he (Danding) was hurt," Gretchen said. "He feel very bad for him."

She said Teodoro had not attempted to get in touch with his uncle since he left.

Reached for comment, Teodoro replied in a text message to the Inquirer: "Matters of the heart such as the presidency should not be a family affair."

Pressed if it was true that he did not make a formal goodbye to his uncle, Teodoro texted back, "That's my final word. The country is of utmost importance; personal family considerations shouldn't have any place in the consideration of the national interest."

Another Cojuangco nephew, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III is also running for president under the Liberal Party—also without Mercedes's support.

Standing Cojuangco was to become one of the richest and most powerful men in the country as a crony of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos. He still heads the country's biggest food and beverage conglomerate, San Miguel Corp.

Mellered to be his subordinate as Marcos' Cojuangco fled the country together with Marcos after a four-day revolt toppled the Marcoses out of power. He eventually returned and made a bid for the presidency in 1992 but lost.

He is still considered the power and person behind the NPC. The party, however, does not have a candidate for this year's presidential election. Sen. Chiz Escudero resigned from the NPC, while Sen. Loren Legarda slid down to run for vice president, reportedly after both failed to get Cojuangco's full backing.

Cojuangco then Standing Cojuangco's health was failing, Gretchen said. "My husband's health is okay."

Despite should stop spreading erroneous information about my husband and should instead pray for him, she said.

"Like all of us he is helping our country a lot in his own little way," she added.

Gretchen Cojuangco was in Bacolod Saturday to speak on behalf of her husband at the graduation of 119 policemen from congressional courses at the University of St. La Salle on scholarships provided by her husband.

Family feuds aside, administration party spokesperson Rui Elvenia said the governor of Eastern Samar said Teodoro had a good chance of winning "once the administration party's machinery starts to move."

Reuelone told the Inquirer in Tacloban City on Saturday that Teodoro's low survey ratings "will change once the local campaign starts."

"While I respect these surveys, schools are all done scientifically, its results are not necessarily the outcome of the elections," Reuelone said.

Various surveys place Teodoro behind other top-three presidential contenders. LP's Aquino, Manuel Villar of the Nacionalista Party and Joseph Estrada of the Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino.

Reuelone said the administration party had a complete lineup down to the municipal level, and when the local campaigns start in March, they would all pitch for the presidential bid of Teodoro. This, Reuelone said, would give the Eastern Samar governor a formidable edge over his rivals. *With reports from Jo Zamora in Manila and Joey A. Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas*

Hearing to continue in suit vs FG

THE COURT OF APPEALS (CA) HAS ordered the Makati Regional Trial Court to hear the affirmative defenses of Fort Sanitorium Inc. (Filipat) invoke before pushing through with the trial of the P12.5-million damage suit that journalist Jose Pidal filed against it.

In a 23-page decision, the Ninth Division of the appellate court granted Arroyo's petition questioning Judge Zenaida Galapate-Laguilles' orders on May 13, 2009, and June 18, 2009, terminating the hearing on affirmative defenses and setting a pre-trial conference.

"While the respondent judge may have a laudable purpose in ensuring the prompt disposition of the case, i.e., one that is free from vexatious, capricious and oppressive delays, she must not lose sight of the fact that her primordial concern must be justice and fairness," the CA said.

The court noted that the judge "gave grossly preposterous several statements, without rationale to comply with other court requirements.

"The ends of justice and fairness would be best served if petitioner is given the same [attitude]," said the ruling penned by Associate Justice Sonia Celia Villon.

In the case of Hilary Carlos Olivares et al. versus Arroyo, 39 individuals journalists and media groups in December 2008 sought damages against the Fort Sanitorium for causing what they called a "chilling effect" on media through the series of libel suits he filed against your editor-in-chief of late.

Arroyo's affirmative defenses could nullify the filing of the case against him. But Legarda on May 13 ruled that the hearing be terminated because Arroyo's lawyers were not ready to present their evidence that day.

Arroyo's lawyer had asked that the hearing be reset because of pending issues before the Supreme Court and his intention to bring the issue of the hearing of the affirmative defenses to the Court of Appeals.

The lawyers for the journalists, however, objected on the ground that the rules of court say cases may proceed despite pending motions unless restrained by a writ of injunction.

Court records showed that the hearing on Arroyo's affirmative defenses has been postponed 10 times since April 2009.

The appellate court, however, noted that the hearing was postponed upon the initiative of Arroyo only four times, "which are final to be for valid and meritorious reasons, and without intention to delay the proceedings." Rowena Bordadora

need a job?

ELECTION CAMPAIGN
- Plastic Banner
- Tarpaulin
- Ballot ID
- Button Pins
- Plastic Fan
- Flyers, Stickers, etc.

0907-109-7777

Panasonic
PABX
P12,999
Hotel Communication Corp.
367-0277/364-8277

We Are...
TECO
COMPLETE RANGE

Metrobank
Use your Metrobank Credit Card ANYWHERE and get these Greenwich treats!
greenwich

FREE Greenwich Beefy Baked Macaroni for a minimum single charge of P2,000!

FREE Greenwich Solo Pizza for a minimum single charge of P3,000!

FREE Greenwich Family Thin Crust Pizza for a minimum ACCUMULATED CHARGE of at least P10,000!

To redeem, surrender valid charge slip/s at any participating Greenwich branch.

Promo period: February 1 to April 30, 2010

Keep using your Metrobank Credit Card!
Call 8-705-7000 (Metro Manila) or 1-800-1-688-5775 (Domestic Toll-Free)

Metrobank

The Sexy Summer Countdown continues...
21 DAYS
Before Summer Season

The 2-week Body Contouring:
Lose flabs. Show off sexy curves!

Every woman, whether slim or chubby, has a problem with ugly and loose flabs. Get the Marie France 2-Week Body Contouring Program to eliminate those hard-to-lose inches – so you can enjoy and be more confident this summer!

The Promise: A flatter, smoother tummy!
THE SOLUTION: TriPollar Tummy – eliminates excess residual belly fat while firming up wrinkly skin – no cuts, no scars.

The Promise: Sexier curves. Shapelier waist, slimmer legs!
THE SOLUTION: Endermologie – targets hard-to-lose fat as it reduces cellulite and smoothens out lumps and bumps in your skin.

Get the body you want. No risks. No scars. No regrets! Call now for a FREE consultation.

Call 894-BODY (2639)
www.mariefrance.com.ph

Yes, you can!

marie france

MAKATI · ORTIGAS · TOMAS MORATO · MAGNOLIA · ALABANG · BF · CONGRESSIONAL · MARIKINA · CEBU

'Snowmageddon'

From page A1

"Snowmageddon," US President Barack Obama called it. And even the president's nickname—which featured 30.9% instead of Snowzilla—fell victim to a true little snapped and crushed cross a countrywide vehicle-carrying paralysis. No one was injured.

From Pennsylvania to New Jersey, south to Virginia, the region was under at least 61 cm (24 in) of snow. Parts of northern Maryland had 91 cm (36 in) of snow.

And while the storm created critical inconveniences for many who were without power and faced with digging out, the monuments in Washington's heart seemed even more starkly and serene.

At the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, soldiers' names were buried 36 cms deep, while higher up snow had settled into the letters so they stood out against the black background.

The wreaths at the World War II Memorial looked like giant white-frosted doughnuts. The big attraction at the Lincoln Memorial was not the marble's 19th president, but rather a snowman with eyes of copper pennies bearing Lincoln's likeness.

Philadelphia, the nation's sixth largest city, was virtually shut down with a record of nearly 69 cm (27 in). The Philadelphia International Auto Show at the Pennsylvania Convention Center downtown was a ghost town.

Thousands of wrecks

The ugly side of the snow led to thousands of wrecks. Trees toppled and about a half-million Americans were left in the dark and cold. Still, only two people had died—a father-and-son team who were killed trying to clear snow-stuck on a highway in Virginia.

Heavy, wet snow collapsed several roofs including at Joshua Temple Church Ministry and a private jet hangar at Dulles International Airport.

The snow comes less than one months after a Dec. 19 storm dumped more than 40 cm (16 in) on Washington.

According to the National Weather Service, Washington has gotten more than 30 cm (12 in) of snow only 13 times since 1870.

The biggest snowfall for the Washington-Baltimore area is believed to have been in 1772, before official records were kept, when as much as 91 cm (36 in) fell, which George Washington and Thomas Jefferson penned to their diaries.

El Niño

Some experts blamed the big snowstorms on El Niño, the weather phenomenon in which seasonally warm sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean move east, pulling rainfall along with them.

In general, El Niño brings increased rainfall across the east-central and eastern Pacific and drier than normal conditions over northern Australia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

"It also increases the odds of having a big snowstorm in the mid-Atlantic states, including Washington," said Mace Bonfer, a climatologist at the University of Colorado.

But cold, snowy weather cannot be blamed solely on El Niño; nor can they always be pinned on El Niño.

"The winner of 1995-96 was a very snowy winter and that was with La Niña," in which ocean waters in the east-central equatorial Pacific are unusually cool, Bonfer said.

"If you look at the top 10 winter storms in Washington history, here is an increased risk with El Niño, but there you have other cases that have nothing to do with El Niño," he explained.

2 players

According to Bonfer, there are "at least two players in this game: El Niño and what the North Atlantic is doing."

Cold weather in the North Atlantic hangs over Europe but also backs up into the northeastern United States and the mid-Atlantic states.

This winter, a blocked North Atlantic pattern brought with it heavy snow and arctic temperatures across parts of Germany and elsewhere in Europe. *Reports from AP and AFP*

Delayed ballot printing starts

By Jerome Aning

AFTER BEING DELayed twice, printing started at the National Printing Office (NPO) in Quezon City finally began rolling yesterday to produce more than 50 million official ballots for the May 10 polls.

"We started the printing of the first batch of around 55,000 ballots yesterday ago," Commission on Elections (Comelec) spokesperson Jimeo Brillantes told reporters in a text message.

The NPO is tasked to print over ballot each for the 39,755,734 registered voters. The rest of ballots will be printed.

These will be 1,631 unique ballot designs—one for each congressional district in 1,214 municipalities and 120 cities in the country. The names of national candidates will be printed on the front of the ballot and those of local candidates on the back.

The Comelec said its poll automation contractor, Smartmatic-TIM Corporation Management Corp., had moved the printing of the ballots from the original target of Jan. 25 to Jan. 31.

The delay was moved again to Feb. 7 as Comelec struggled to resolve printing problems to disqualify several candidates as well as motions for reconsideration for earlier decisions.

The poll body said it did not want printed ballots stuck at the NPO for a long time before they were delivered to the various municipalities.

Comelec and Smartmatic officials earlier said they expected the NPO to finish the printing of all the ballots by early April at the latest.

Representatives of 18 accredited political parties have been invited to view the printing. The Comelec has also set up deactivated television cameras to monitor the NPO printing area.

Security personnel—from the NPO, the Comelec security office and the Philippine National Police—have been deployed to secure the NPO premises 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

E·nopi MATH & ENGLISH
www.enopi.com

5 years of producing WORLD CHAMPIONS.
Make your child the next.

Develop your child's thinking power and make him/her a CHAMPION.

Enjoy E.nopi Philippines' 5th Anniversary DOUBLE TREATS!
(From February 8, 2010 to April 30, 2010)

1 6+1 Incentive Program
Enroll for 6 months, get the 7th month free!

2 Refer-a-Friend
Refer someone to enroll, get an incentive!

For more information, visit http://ph.enopi.com or visit an E-nopi Center near you!

2nd ELV Globe Telecom Plaza I, Pioneer St. cor. Madison St., Mandaluyong
706-3078 to 71, 706-8630

SLIMMERS WORLD

BUY 1 MONTH GET 1 MONTH FREE!

PLUS! Personal Training and all the Latest Aerobics!

SPECIAL OFFER
GOOD UNTIL 10PM TONIGHT!!!

Great Body, Great Skin.

"All our full programmes are guaranteed!"

CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE CONSULTATION!!!

- NO MONTHLY DUES OR LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP!
- NO JOINING FEES!
- CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%
- MEDICAL SUPERVISION AT ALL CENTERS

BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 15 FREE!

SPECIAL OFFER
GOOD UNTIL 10PM TONIGHT!!!

Diamond Facial

FACIAL WITH DIAMOND ULTRAPEEL to give you a flawless skin.

CALL OUR ONE - STOP SUPER CENTERS FOR FITNESS, SKIN, BODY AND FACE.

FITNESS HOTLINE: 536-3333
SKIN HOTLINE: 525-8771
MOBILE NUMBER: 091- SLIMMERS (754663771)

www.slimmersworld.com.ph * inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

"Thanks to Zunic, I don't have to hide any more!"

— Danielle Castaño, Binibining Pilipinas World 2008

"After a few sessions at Zunic, I'm almost back to my Binibining Pilipinas form!"

Danielle Castaño had a near-perfect body when she won the Binibining Pilipinas World crown in 2008.

But because of the stress her responsibilities entailed, she put on 40 pounds and gained unwanted inches in the wrong places. As a result, her career plummeted. In panic, she crash-dieted, tried hard-core gym workouts, and went to slimming salon after slimming salon. She even tried liposuction, but the unwanted inches returned quickly. Nothing really worked fast enough in reasonable ways.

Until Danielle came to Zunic.

"After my first 45 minutes at Zunic, I felt like a beauty queen again!" she says. "Every look got rid of my inches in 45 minutes. Days after, I lost 2 inches on my thighs and 2 inches on my arms. Now I'm sure to look fit – I feel beautiful again!"

Zunic uses only the latest slimming technology available in the world.

As Danielle discovered, all weight loss and body-sculpting programs are customized to meet your individual objectives and to fit your time constraints. Which is also why Zunic remains the preferred choice for busy executives, frequent travellers, models and full-time moms.

"Thanks to Zunic, I don't have to hide any more", says Danielle. "I've started accepting job offers and have looking out in print ads, TV and runway again. I'm even looking at going into showbiz. Now that I've slim-worked Zunic, everything's possible!"

Need to get back into shape fast?

Without dieting, exercise, pills, injections, or painful surgery?

Visit Zunic today! We're open 6 am to 8 pm, Monday to Sunday. Consultations are free and are held in strict confidence!

Before Treatment

Zunic slimming & body sculpting

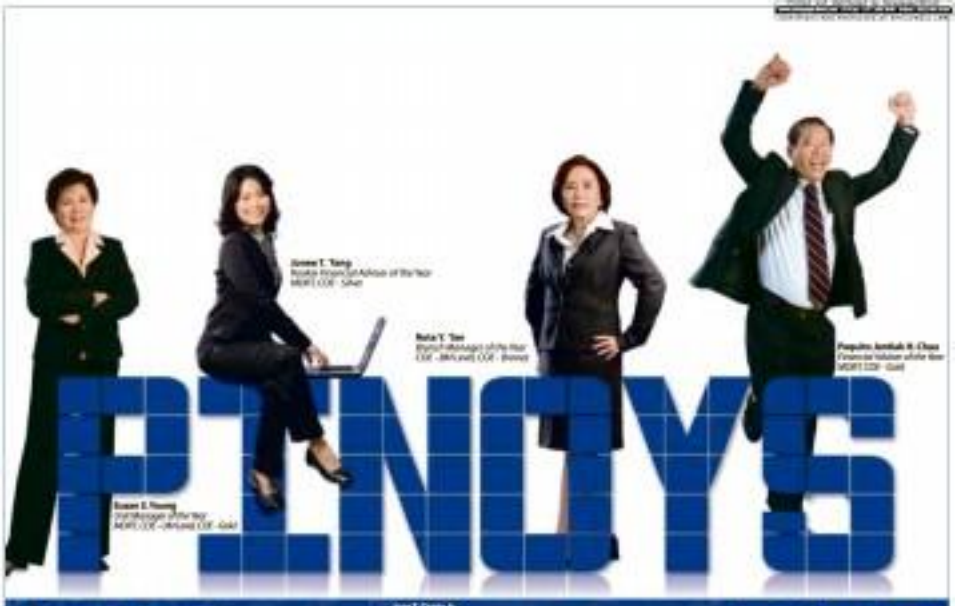
"Measurable results, immeasurable confidence — that's what I get from Zunic! After just a few sessions, I'm back to shape and back at work! Try it for your self and see!"

MAKATI | UGF Somerset Olympia, Makati Ave., Makati
QUEZON CITY | GF Ilaw-ponga Building, Timog Ave., Quezon City
ALABANG | GF Vicente Hotel, Bridgetown Ave., Alabang
BATANGAS | GF ACC Burgundy Empire Tower, ADB Ave., Ortigas Center

Call Now!
8300-800
www.zunic-intl.com

YearBooks on Demand
Fast and Affordable Yearbook Printing Service

- Using the latest digital print technology, printing takes 10 working days only.
- We print only the quantity you need, perfect for class of 50 or 200.
- Available in High Quality Full-Color or Black & White printing. Hardbound or Softbound
- Used by Top Universities and Schools



Fairness. Integrity. Respect. Excellence.

Forces that drive these outstanding Pioneer Life individuals to inspire change and help build better lives, one Filipino at a time.

Hats off to your success. We are proud you are part of the Pioneer team!

PIONEER

life and what matters

Pioneer Insurance | Pioneer Life | Pioneer Interfinance

+63 2 812 7777 www.pioneer.com.ph

Comelec to bets: Remove illegal materials before campaigns start

By Jeconn Aning

THE COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) yesterday reminded all candidates running in the May 10 polls to remove all illegal campaign materials before commencement of the 45-day campaign period.

In resolutions issued Friday, the Comelec said all illegal campaign materials not removed within three days from commencement would be construed as belonging to the candidates named on the campaign materials.

Printed materials and advertisements showing the picture, image or name of a candidate made or done in violation of election laws prior to the campaign period must be removed by today.

Campaign materials not deemed to be illegal if the size of posters made of cloth or paper exceed two feet by three feet. Streamers which exceed the maximum size of three feet by eight feet. These may be displayed five days before the event and must be removed within 24 hours after it.

Posters may only be placed in areas designated as common poster areas by local election officials.

Posting of campaign materials on stones, hedges, public buildings, trees, electric posts and poles, schools, churches, public shrines and plazas, public monuments and markers is totally prohibited.

Considered illegal campaign materials are those with statements that are projected, patently libelous, offensive to public morals, subversive, and those that intend to incite violence or rebellion.

Candidates have one to six hours' notice to remove illegal materials. Posting of campaign materials on public places, including private property, without the consent of the owner or his lawful public officer for violating election laws.

If a political party is determined to be the offender, the said party would be fined P10,000 and charges would be initiated against the party officials responsible.

The Comelec also reminded candidates of the limits on election spending.

For broadcast media ads, national candidates are allowed a total of 320 minutes per station, whereas local candidates are allowed a total of 120 minutes per station.

Local candidates are allowed six minutes per TV station and another 90 minutes per radio station.

Print media ads are limited to publication three times a week. For both national and local candidates, the ad can occupy one-fifth page for broadsheets and one-half page for tabloids.

The resolution is silent on campaign materials on the Internet.

Meanwhile, the Comelec has given accredited national and local political parties until Feb. 12 to file applications for the private copies of the election returns (ERs) and certificates of canvass (COCs).

The Automated Election System Act provides for 10 copies of an ER, which contains the tally from the voting precinct, and five COC, which contains tabulations for each municipality, city and province.

2010 AUTOMATED ELECTION

(OFFICIAL BIR-BAT SEMINAR IN PREPARATION FOR THE 2010 ELECTION)

PLUS ACTUAL PRECINCT COUNT OPTICAL SCAN (PCOS) MACHINE DEMO

INTENDED FOR: ELECTION LAWYERS, CANDIDATES, INCUMBENT OFFICIALS, CAMPAIGN MANAGERS & POLITICAL/PARTY-LIST LEADERS/COORDINATORS/ ORGANIZERS/POLL WATCHERS, LAW STUDENTS

MARCH 15, 2010 – 9:00am – 6:00pm
APRIL 12, 2010 – 9:00am – 6:00pm

Lecturers:
COMDR. RENE V. SARMIENTO ATTY. LEIE TITO F. ATIA
Commissioner, COMELEC Election Lawyer
HON. FERDINAND T. RAFANAN
Director IV, Law Department, COMELEC

Venue: EDSA SHANGRI-LA PLAZA HOTEL, Mandaluyong City

Seminar Fee: Php5,500.00 – Early Bird Fee for participants who PAY on or before March 5, 2010

Regular/Onsite Fee: Php6,500.00

Inclusions: Buffet Lunch, AM/PM Snack, Seminar Kit & Certificate of Attendance (MCLE Accredited for Lawyers)

Sponsored by: ChanRobles Law Net, Inc.

REGISTER ONLINE at www.chanrobleslawnet.com

ASSOCIATION OF LAW STUDENTS OF THE PHILIPPINES

LETTER TO THE JUDICIAL AND BAR COUNCIL

24 February 2010

JUDICIAL AND BAR COUNCIL
c/o Hon. Conchita Carpio Morales
Supreme Court of the Philippines
Padre Faura St. cor. Taft Avenue
Ermita, Manila

Subject: OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF LAW STUDENTS OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE ISSUE OF APPOINTMENT OF THE NEXT CHIEF JUSTICE BY THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Dear Sir/Madam:

The upcoming retirement of Chief Justice Reynato Puno has given birth to an issue that has gripped the nation because of the breath and scope of its political implications: the assailed appointment of the next Chief Justice by the outgoing President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. This situation begs for solemn and utmost introspection and consideration because it involves, if ever the assailed appointment pushes through, a blatant disregard and violation of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, specifically that of Section 15, Article VII, which bans midnight appointments.

We, the Association of Law Students of the Philippines, Inc. (ALSP), personally living both to your attentive ear and/or on the issues of paramount importance, as students of the law, we take it on our solemn oath to defend the Constitution and to uphold the Rule of Law. It is our student and utmost hope that the Honorable Council would take this into consideration as it faces in this crucial time a most arduous situation.

Attached herein is a copy of our official statement for your perusal.

With our best regards.

A Statement of the Association of Law Students of the Philippines, Inc. on Chief Justice Appointment

"The rule of law is better than the rule of any individual." -- Aristotle

The impending retirement of Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno has created quite a stir not only in the legal and political circles, but also among concerned citizens. The looming vacancy in the highest court of the land opened floodgates for many interest groups to speak their minds with a view, perhaps, of influencing the turn-out of the appointment. While Chief Justice Puno is still set to retire on May 17, 2010, the Judicial and Bar Council had already set into motion the process of selecting the candidates for Chief Justice. With its deadline on February 4, 2010 looming, various groups and legal luminaries have come out to express their position on the incumbent President's legal authority (or the lack of it) to appoint the next Chief Justice. Notwithstanding pervasive disagreements on the issue, has confirmed that there is no stopping PGMA from appointing the next Chief Justice allegedly in order to prevent a hiatus or vacuum in the judiciary.

In light of this disconcerting development, we, the Association of Law Students of the Philippines (ALSP), would like our voices heard in the raging controversy surrounding the purported plans of PGMA to appoint the next Chief Justice. As students of the law, we firmly believe that in this moment of great uncertainty and division, we should take to heart that which the late Justice J.B.L. Reyes so eloquently stated: "No Master, But Law; No Guide, But Conscience; No Aim, But Justice."

It is our strong contention that it is no longer within PGMA's power and authority to appoint the next Chief Justice considering that the vacancy of the position shall occur within the period of the Constitutional ban on midnight appointments (March 10-June 30). Section 15, Article VII of the highest law of the land provides, in no uncertain terms:

> "Two months immediately before the next presidential elections and up to the next presidential elections and up to the end of his term, a President or Acting President shall not make appointments, except temporary appointments to executive positions when continued vacancies therein will prejudice public service or endanger public safety."

The disturbing scenarios painted by some to justify PGMA's appointment of the next Chief Justice are only meant to sow unnecessary fears in the hearts of the Filipinos, and, thus, unwarranted. It is ALSP's contention that there is no "imperative need" to fill in the vacancy at the expense of violating the Rule of Law and our Constitution. PGMA's non-appointment of a Chief Justice could be adequately addressed by the rules of succession provided under the Supreme Court Judiciary Act of 1948. Hence, by operation of law, there will be no leadership vacuum in the Supreme Court when C.J. Puno retires.

PGMA's insistence to proceed in the act of appointing the next Chief Justice belies it for judicial independence and places in a precarious situation the balance of power among the three branches of the government. This insistence will just further fuel the distrust and cynicism in a government already fraught with scandals left and right. Even more disturbing is the recent announcement that PGMA will proceed to appoint a new Chief Justice even in the absence of an endorsement from the Judicial and Bar Council. The disregard of the law cannot be any clearer.

As students of the law, we take it upon our youthful hopefulness and willing shoulders to defend our Constitution and exhort every one to be vigilant and watchful against those who brazenly skirt around or twist the law to suit their own selfish interests. We, therefore, call on all law students and law organizations to take a stand in this very important issue. Involved in this very critical time in our nation's history. Apathy has no place at this time, especially when what is under siege is our Constitution and the Rule of Law -- the business of every law student, nay the burden of every citizen.

We, thus, also call on the Filipino people to stand with us and join hands in opposing any scheme that would thwart the Rule of Law.

Patrick Meliert Bothen (signed)
National President

Earla Alcala (signed)
VP for NCR

Sherween Sagaing (signed)
VP For Northern Luzon

Giancarlo Capco (signed)
VP for Southern Luzon

Marilyn Mier (signed)
VP for Visayas

Elbelbert Degull (signed)
VP for Mindanao

Ellel Grace Aurelio (signed)
Secretary General

Sherwin Pulapan (signed)
Treasurer

Francis Bianca (signed)
Auditor

Ryan Flores (signed)
P.R.O.

Belinda Abecina Verches; 56

BELINDA ABECINA VERCHES, widow of Benjamin Verches Jr. and mother of Beverly Verches-Acevedo, formerly of INQ7 News and Pickle Allstars, died on Feb. 3 at the age of 56.

Aside from Beverly and husband Winfell, she is survived by her other children Ryan, Cesar and wife Melody; and Bret Benjamin, and grandchildren Wilbur Sean, Winona Bella, John and Jamelle.

Interment will be today, Feb. 8, at 9 a.m., at the Jose Pangalinan Catholic Cemetery in Parang, Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte.

need a job?

COMPLETE FREEDOM IN A WHEELCHAIR
09228816323
www.farenetmed.net

YEAR OF THE TIGER
FREE! baggage allowance
in-flight snacks, newspapers and on-board entertainment
More legroom
Convenient connections for international flights
One-way All-in Economy class
DOMESTIC
PHP 888
Manila to Bacolod, Cebu, Dumaguete, Iloilo, Kalibo, Laoag, Legaspi, Puerto Princesa, Roxas, Tacloban, Tagbilaran or v.v.
Cebu to Davao or v.v.
PHP 1888
Manila to Butuan, Cagayan De Oro, Cotabato, Davao, Dipolog, General Santos, Ozamiz, Zamboanga or v.y.
Selling Period: February 5 - 15, 2010
Travel Period: February 16 to March 10, 2010 or May 17 to August 31, 2010
Inclusive of VAT • Exclusive of ADF/Ticketing service fee • Rebookable • Non-refundable/ Non-refundable but upgradable • No mileage accrual • Limited Seats • Free 15 kilos baggage allowance
Round-trip All-in Economy class
REGIONAL
USD 128
Manila to Singapore
USD 168
Manila to Jakarta
USD 552
Manila to Brisbane, Melbourne or Sydney
Selling Period: February 5 - 15, 2010
Travel Period (Outbound Manila): February 16 to March 25, 2010 (Singapore/Jakarta)
April 5 to August 31, 2010 (Singapore/Jakarta/Australia)
Inclusive of surcharges • Exclusive of government taxes/Ticketing service fee • Non-rebookable/ Non-refundable • Blackout dates: March 26 to April 4, 2010 (Inbound Manila) • No mileage accrual Limited Seats • Free 15 kilos baggage allowance (23 Kilos for Australia destinations)
Philippine Airlines
WITH US, YOU'RE ALWAYS NO. 1
www.philippineairlines.com

UNLEASH YOUR POTENTIAL.
John Robert Powers
Careers, success, friends. Make it happen.
Call 892-9511 Makati
927-0465 Quezon City
659-0952 Alabang
johnrobertpowers.com
ENROLL NOW TO GET EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS & THE BEST SCHEDULES. UNTIL FEB. 28 ONLY!

PAY YOUR COMPANY EXPENSES WITH EASE.
ALLIED BANK CORPORATE CREDIT CARD LETS YOU CUT BACK ON THE MANUAL ISSUANCE OF SUPPLIERS' CHECKS AND EMPLOYEES' CASH ADVANCES. ITS WORLDWIDE ACCEPTANCE ENABLES YOU TO PAY FOR YOUR OFFICE SUPPLIES, FLEET SERVICES AND OTHER EXPENSES WITH CONVENIENCE.

Allied Bank Corporate Credit Card.
Simple. Efficient. Cost-saving.
APPLY NOW!
ALLIED BANK

Zip it, Chief Justice nominee tells colleagues in SC

By Norman Bordadora

SUPREME COURT MAGISTRATES WHO HAVE been nominated for the post of Chief Justice should not be sitting their thesis on whether or not President Macapagal-Arroyo can make the appointment, an incumbent associate justice said yesterday.

Associate Justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura said the nominees for Chief Justice should instead be thinking of how they would vote on the case when it reaches the Court.

"As a sitting associate justice of the Supreme Court, I cannot speculate, much less publicly air my views, on situations that may or may not arise in the appointment process," said Nachura in his letter of resignation to the JBC.

"But it is now that I shall undertake to clear him, guided by the letter and intent of the Constitution, once a concrete case is before the Court."

Nachura was a labor secretary and an undersecretary of foreign affairs and of justice in the Arroyo administration.

The Philippine Constitution Association (Philconsa) and Court of Appeals Justice Japar Dimaampao separately nominated him last week.

Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, the most senior justice and next in line to the Chief Justice if tradition were to be followed, accepted his nomination but on the condition that the appointment would be made by the next president.

The other nominees—Associate Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales, Ombudsman Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa Ignacio and Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Peter Fernandez—also set the same condition when they accepted their nominations or applied for the post.

Arroyo has until March 17, when the JBC has President Arroyo and herself in the Committee from making appointments around the time Chief Justice Reynato Puno will retire on May 17.

Like Nabo, the second most senior associate justice, Renato Corona, and Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo-De Castro accepted their nominations without conditions.

Also by tradition, the JBC invites the five most senior associate justices for consideration for the post of Chief Justice.

The fourth and fifth most senior magistrates—Presidente Velasco and Antonio Eduardo Nachura—begged off from JBC consideration.

Carpio, Corona and the third most senior magistrate, Morales, accepted but only Corona did so without setting conditions.

The JBC is mandated by the Constitution to submit at least three names to the President from which he or she must pick the next Chief Justice.

The Constitution prohibits presidential appointments 90 days before a president's term ends on June 30. May 17 falls well within that period of prohibition.

Ms. Arroyo's allies, however, have expressed the opinion that the prohibition only applies to appointments in the executive branch.

Ibrado makes farewell tour

AMID CALLS FOR AN EXTENSION OF HIS term until after the May elections, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Victor Ibrado has started visiting military camps across the country to bid the troops farewell.

The already visited several units, not only to receive a show of support from the troops in the coming elections but also to say my goodbyes," Ibrado told reporters yesterday.

He said he has been going around since January to announce his "exit."

Ibrado, 6 out to retire on March 31, Malacañang, however, including lawmakers, have supported to President Macapagal-Arroyo to extend his term until after the May 10 polls, the first time automated elections would be conducted in the country.

At least in a repeat of the "Hello Garci" controversy during the 2004 presidential election when President Arroyo was tapped by communications technician Virgilio Garcillano instructing Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano about winning vote margins.

Several ranking military officers were summoned to the conversations as being partial to the administration.

The first to flee after Ibrado retires, President Arroyo could appoint Army chief Lt. Gen. Delfin Bangit, who is reportedly close to her, having been dean of Mabalacat university as AFP chief of staff.

But Ibrado yesterday said he was not thinking about a term extension. "What I am thinking about is my retirement," he said.

He said it would also be better for the military organization if retirement schedules were followed in order to give lower ranking officers a chance to move up.

"In my opinion, it will be good to let go all those who are already due for retirement to give a chance to others," he said. Jaime B. Oy

LACK of OXYGEN can KILL!
BREATHE
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
www.fareastmed.net

$79

Magellan World Travel, Inc.

Fly Now, Pay Later.
CORALS TRAVEL + PNB Finance

DJK TOURS & TRAVEL CO.

GROUP TOURS 2010
HOLIDAY w/ JORDAN & EGYPT
EUROPE RAMBAN PILGRIMAGE
GREECE & TURKEY TOUR
EASTERN EUROPE TOUR
BEST OF EUROPE SIGHTSEEING
RUSSIA & SCANDINAVIA
travelplan, inc

SKYNET TRAVEL

DOLJUNTS
HOT DEAL
AIRFARES

CHEAP
AIRLINE TICKETS & TOURS

Shanghai Expo 2010
CHINA and Beyond
Cruise Holiday
KOREA, JAPAN
PANDA TRAVEL SERVICE INC.

RAKSO TRAVEL
www.RAKSOTRAVEL.com
(02) 812-9667
HOKKAIDO 2122
DUBAI 1544
SCENIC JAPAN 1499
JAPAN ESCAPADE 2199
AUSTRALIA 4-CITIES 2237
MYSTICAL TAIWAN 918
HISTORICAL SIEM REAP & SAIGON 855
INDIA 985
HKG & ASIA
HKG 223 256
SIN 211 BKK 211 SIN 237

ATTENTION: Business Advertiser
Publish a picture of your
If cars for sale
If products for sale
If house for sale
If apartment for rent
CLASSIFIEDS

THE DAILY GOSPEL
Monday, February 8, 2010
5th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 1 KGS 3:4-13
Gospel: Mk 6:53-56

Ping somewhere in Asia

From page A1

"We have an idea [where he is] but we have to be very cautious about it," Ebdane, chief of the NBI counterterrorism unit (CTU), told the Inquirer yesterday.

Ebdane refused to identify the country to avoid jeopardizing pursuit operations but said that it was somewhere "in Asia" and not in the Philippines.

He said this was based on "information" the NBI received but he did not specify the source.

Ebdane also said that since Lacson's banks were familiar to Filipinos, it was possible he might be operating a dragnet.

"My sense anticipated that he could wage a dragnet," Ebdane said on the phone, adding in Filipino: "It could be a mousetrap or he may have greener fish bait lang. He could also sense a trap."

"It is the classic form of evasion," he said.

Model no more

A mustachioed or longhaired Lacson would look a far cry from his familiar clean-cut image, like the one that has appeared on websites and billboards in Metro Manila showing him as an all-wanted for fatal shootings.

Ebdane said it was doubtful that Lacson—the target of an arrest warrant for his alleged role in the October 2008 twin murders of publisher Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and driver Emmanuel Corbito—had already ventured, or would try to return, to the Philippines where "it would be easy to recognize him."

"We look at how he could change his appearance and look different [from] the picture we [have] to look like," the NBI official said.

In a statement to the media on Tuesday, Lacson said he had left the country to protect himself from what he called an "evil conspiracy" against him.

Case vs Densmadens

Ebdane stressed that the NBI needed to coordinate closely with its foreign counterparts in keeping for confirmation of Lacson's whereabouts and to implement his arrest so he would be brought back to the country.

Lacson's lawyer, Alex Avisado, said the surveillance was not the type to run away from a good fight.

His lawyers are planning to file a contempt of court case against Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera for supposedly making Lacson appear like a fugitive from the law, Avisado said.

He told the Inquirer: "It is unfair to call Senator Lacson a fugitive or even from the impression that he is a man hunted by fear[ed] as part of the implementation of the warrant."

Avisado said Lacson had not abandoned the case and that his lawyers would contest the arrest warrant issued by Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Myra Garcia-Fernandez.

"If this is what we [are being] a fugitive a propaganda," the lawyer said.

Avisado said the court resolution finding probable cause against Lacson was not yet final.

"If the court does not decide favorably, we will exhaust all legal remedies by going to the Court of Appeals and then the Supreme Court," he said.

He also asked the NBI to leave the members of Lacson's family out of the case, saying they were private people and must remain that way.

Avisado said Lacson's lawyers would file today a petition asking Devanadera to reconsider her decision to issue an arrest warrant.

Court of Appeals post

Avisado asked why Cruz judge did not consider the sport-court testimonies of two former golfers and Lacson and, instead, purportedly relied on their old affidavits in her decision to issue an arrest order.

He said the testimony of former Sept. Orosa Diaddao and former Senior Supt. Cezar Mancao II would show that Lacson was not involved in the November 2008 killings of Dacer and his driver.

"We want the court to put aside by aside the affidavits of Diaddao and Mancao with their recantations," he said.

Interviewed over dzBB radio, Avisado also disclosed that Fernandez had a pending application with the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) for a seat in the Court of Appeals and that was why there would be impressions of "political color" in the developments involving Lacson's case.

"Who will appoint her [to the Court of Appeals]: her, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo?" Avisado asked.

Affidavits vs court testimony

Asking Fernandez to inhibit herself from the case was an "option" that Lacson's lawyers were considering, Avisado said.

In a text message, Sen. Pimentel Estrada, a JBC member, recalled that Fernandez was one of more than 30 applicants for three vacancies in the Court of Appeals.

"[The vacancies] would be voted on [today]," Estrada said.

Avisado said Fernandez's 16-page arrest order did not discuss the testimony of Diaddao and Mancao.

Saying their testimonies were not enough to back up his assertions, Avisado quoted Ebdane as telling the court in his Jan. 28 testimony that Lacson was "instrumental" in the murder charges and that he had only said so in his earlier affidavit because he was threatened with death.

"Moreover, in his testimony, admitted he may have gotten it wrong regarding his having overheard Lacson ordering Dacer's execution," he said.

He said these two testimonies would have more weight since they were made in open court, where Diaddao and Mancao could face perjury charges, than the affidavits they executed earlier.

HOT DEALS!
BIG SALE!
COPYTRADE.
People's Choice
GOLD 2008
GOLD 2007
GOLD 2006
GOLD 2005
PLATINUM 2004
GOLD 2003
GOLD 2002
GOLD 2001
GOLD 2000
GOLD 1999
océ COPIER SALE
FREE EXAMINATION!
Tel: 7127783 • 7139187
MERCURY
100 LITERS - P18,500
also available 150 - 200 Liters
Free Installation!
GOLD
PILOT
Refillable Ball Point Stick Pens
idec
Indigo
CHEFFAH HOUSE
INVERTER SERIES
FREE INSTALLATION
CURTIS
BUILT STRONG TO LAST LONG!
ENERPRO MARKETING INC.
PROTECT YOUR SELF AND YOUR COMPANY
Why Shred?
PRIVATE
IDENTITY THEFT
FRAUD
MISUSE
RECYCLING
PEACE OF MIND
AURORA
Safe karaoke singing?
Most Complete Line of Cleaning Equipment
P3,700
P28,500
EMERALD COMMERCIAL INC.
BenQ
Enjoyment Matters
DLP
Get FREE
12 Projection Screen
(70"x70") 177.8cm x 177.8cm
for every purchase of
BenQ Projectors*
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
5710 Pandacan St., Barangka, Manila
PILOT CORPORATION

Gov't to borrow $655M

ALL IN FARES AT
EXCEPTIONAL VALUE

188

208 536 668 958

INTRODUCING... THE MOST INTELLIGENT AIR CONDITIONER EVER DESIGNED.

The New Carrier i-cool™

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

l for welfare programs

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

New ball game

EDITORIAL

UNDER THE RULES OF THE GAME AS WE'VE known them from the first post-Edsa presidential election in 1992 until 2004, the start of the presidential campaign on Feb. 9 would've been preceded by a flurry of activities in January, from party conventions to the filing of candidacies. But the adoption of unwanted steering custom that the convention-and-filing period had to take place much earlier (November of last year). This suggested a kind of extended lull stretching from the end of November to the second week of February.

However, as it turned out, significant decisions were made, which essentially stretched the electoral campaign period of four months (February to May) to six months (adding December and January) because the restrictions on campaigning were in effect lifted for that period. This, of course, brought a bonanza to mass media, allowing the premature placement of advertisements for candidates who could afford them, thus affecting the dynamics of electoral campaigns as they've come to be understood.

Among these changes are the decision to permit incumbent of the Cabinet to stay in office even when seeking elective office. Just as the loosening of restrictions on Cabinet members freed them from those already holding positions of authority, the more recent decision by the Commission on Elections follows the undeniably precedent it set for candidates in 2004.

When the ban on advertising in mass media was originally lifted in 2001, the original intention was to keep advertising strictly limited to 120 minutes per candidate. Since 2004, the Comelec has interpreted the limit in a manner favorable to the networks and candidates with a big war chest.

As it has recently announced, the Comelec decided to allow each candidate 120 minutes of air time per TV station (meaning at least five free TV channels), and over 90 cable channels) and another 180 minutes for each radio station. In effect, the Comelec has exponentially multiplied the ability of candidates to place ads.

Consider the effect this will have on the current contest. In the midterm election of 2007, a noticeable increase in voter interest in debates and forums between candidates took place. This trend has continued into the present presidential campaign: candidates have been criticized by the public for not appearing in the many forums and debates sponsored by civic groups and media organizations. However, the much and healthy effect these forums can have on voters can, in turn, be offset by heavy spending on commercials that can scientifically target large segments of our society not particularly inclined (or able, because of pressing needs) to watch debates.

This gives the resource-rich candidates an undue advantage over the resource-poor. The impact of the pro-moneyed campaign can devour out the free and open interplay of opinions and ideas supposed to take place during elections. Aside from changes in voter behavior, an increasingly large electorate can no longer be reached, personally, as in the past, by harnessing the country, than the electorate becomes all the more susceptible to the influence of money-jaundiced ears.

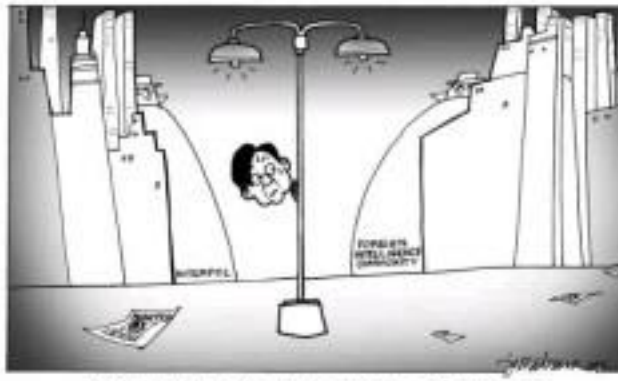
As Paul advised Timothy, the love of money is the root of all evil. In the past, politically speaking, our laws reflected to the notion that permitting lavish spending in elections would mar the integrity of elections. But it is also a truism that whoever has the gold makes the rules, and the rules as they've been evolving since 2004 favors the moneyed candidates.

Hence this appeal to voters and candidates alike, or the eve of the start of the formal campaign period. For the voters, be aware of the rules and how they can potentially affect your behavior. For the presidential candidates, the rules stipulate you can spend P500 million on your campaign, although the innovation of an extended interval between the filing of candidacies and the campaign period gave all candidates a two-month loophole. Can the candidates declare—and prove—at the end of the campaign, that they stayed within this limit? And if not, will anyone be punished?

Publisher Isaac Tiglao
Editor in Chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc
Managing Editor Juan Mo. D. Nolasco
Associate Editors Alejandro G. Alcantara
Associate Editor for Business Ricardo K. Saniguelano
Opinion Editor Jenny V. Abesia
News Editor Antonio T. Enriquez Jr.
Chief News Dsg. Desk Ruben B. Alcantara
Photojournalist Raymund Fernando Jr.
Senior Desk Editor Jose F. Sarmiento Jr.
Editor at Large/Asst. Managing Editor Amando Doronila
City Photographer Rene H. Dumaual
Art & Design Director Lorie A. Velasco

Board of Directors Federico R. Pastrana
President Alejandro Pedro Roman III
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Ramon R. Roxas
Vice President for Advertising Felipe R. Noble
Vice President for Info. Systems & Services Gary G. Lim
Vice President for Finance Eric R. Nolasco
AVP for Circulation Manuel Antero R. Sarmiento IV
AVP for Marketing Josephine L. Reynoso
Corporate Affairs Manager Thomas R. Nolasco

All rights reserved. Except as provided by the Philippine Fair Dealing Act, no portion of the contents of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without the written permission of the publisher.



GMA's deputy spokesman a foreigner

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

SURPRISE, SURPRISE, THE MOST TALKATIVE of President Macapagal-Arroyo's many spokespersons is not even a Filipino but an American citizen, Ricardo Ocliras, the senior spokesman who said GMA was exposed to chief justice (CJ) evidence any list of nominees from the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC)—a violation of the Constitution—was an American passport, No. 300865247, issued by the Philippine Passport Agency, valid from May 15, 2003 to May 15, 2012.

Ocliras said that passport when he departed from the Philippines at least 10 times—between Aug. 23, 2004 and Dec. 21, 2005. He used the same passport when he arrived in the Philippines seven times—between Sept. 2, 2004 and Sept. 29, 2005.

Ocliras was appointed deputy presidential spokesperson, rank of secretary, in May 2005.

Can Ocliras, an American citizen, be legally appointed to an important position in the Philippine government, a Cabinet position no less, and take part in the formulation of policies that affect us?

According to Article 177 of the Revised Penal Code: "Usurpation of Official Functions.—Any person who shall knowingly and falsely represent himself to be an officer, agent or representative of any department or agency of the Philippine Government or any foreign government, or who, under pretense of official position, shall perform any act pertaining to any person in authority or public officer of the Philippine Government or of any foreign government, or any agency thereof, without being lawfully entitled to do so, shall suffer the penalty of prision correccional in its minimum period."

Article 244 of the Revised Penal Code says:

"Unlawful appointments.—Any public officer who shall knowingly nominate or appoint to any public office any person lacking the legal qualifications therefor shall suffer the penalty of *arresto mayor* and a fine not exceeding 1,000 pesos."

Republic Act 9225, otherwise known as the Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003 says:

"Section 5. Civil and Political Rights and Liabilities.—Those who retain or reacquire Philippine citizenship under this Act shall enjoy full civil and political rights and be subject to all attendant liabilities and responsibilities under existing laws of the Philippines and the following conditions:...

"(2) Those appointed to any public office shall subscribe and take an oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines and its duly constituted authorities prior to their assumption of office: Provided, That they renounce their oath of allegiance to the country where they took that oath."

Still on the premature appointment of a new chief justice: The problem arose because some people want to get around the time-honored tradition of appointing as chief justice the most senior associate justice. As present chief justice Artemio Panganiban is retiring in December, the next senior associate justice is Reynato Puno, followed by Josue de la Fuente, Justice Renato Corona, AFP's former chief of staff Angelo Reyes and others very loyal to her GMA wants to appoint one of them, preferably Corona, as the CJ.

Actually, Corona was still for chief justice even if Carpio is appointed CJ in May. Carpio will retire long before Corona, who is much younger. When Carpio retires, Corona would be the most senior associate justice and next in line for CJ.

But if Corona is appointed CJ this May, Carpio will retire before Corona, without a chance to be CJ himself. That would be GMA's vengeance.

However, both the appointing power and the appointee share sanctions for election offenses under the Omnibus Election Code:

"Section 261. Prohibited Acts.—The following shall be guilty of an election offense:

"(g) Appoint most of new employees, revision of new position, or giving salary increases—During the period of 45 days before a regular election and thirty days before a special election:

"(1) Any head, official or appointing officer of a government office, agency or instrumentality whether national or local, including government-owned or controlled corporations, who appoints or hires any new employee, whether permanent, temporary or casual, or renews and fills any new position, except upon prior authority of the Commission. The Commission shall not grant the authority sought unless it is satisfied that the position to be filled is essential to the proper functioning of the office or agency concerned, and that the position shall not be filled in a manner that may influence the election.

"(2) Any government official who promotes, or gives any increase of salary or remuneration or privilege to any government official or employee, including those in government-owned or controlled corporations."

The Omnibus Election Code provides principals, accomplices and accessories (as defined under the Revised Penal Code) committing this election offense. The penalty is not less than one year but not more than six years or until an disqualification to hold office and deprivation of the right of suffrage.

All the Supreme Court justices and members of the legal profession qualified to become chief justice are presumed to know these laws.

Thus, anyone who accepts such a midnight appointment, well aware of the nullity of the appointment, is complicit in the commission of the illegal act and may be deemed to have abandoned his previous office. No defense of good faith can be invoked here.

In addition, any member of the bar or an associate justice who cooperates in the commission of an election offense by accepting an illegal promotion during the election ban, without which acceptance the election offense would not have been accomplished, becomes a principal to the commission of the election offense and stands to suffer among other penalties, disqualification from holding public office.

Magic

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IS THE COPY MAGIC GONE?

Manny Villar's camp projected the idea, and Mommy Arguin's camp entertained it. That was after Villar first raised the gap between him and Noynoy in the Pulse Asia survey to just two percentage points. The Liberal Party's mantra, once chewed is: Maybe, they said, Noynoy should start exploring another tack. Maybe, they said, the Cory magic has lost its magic.

Not at all.

The Cory magic hasn't lost its magic, it has simply not been used. Or the Cory magic hasn't lost its magic, it has simply been lost on the people who hold it in their hands but never knew what they had. The Cory magic is Edsa. The Cory magic is People Power. The Cory magic is the glimmer of hope pursuing through the dark of despair.

I said last year that the Noynoy camp had a tremendous advantage in that the opening of the year presented two Edsas, January being Edsa Uno and February being Edsa Dos. Both events of truth good triumphing over evil, a concept Edsa has been to point to some people forgot, which is why she has tried to halt Dr. Cory thing—and people, value wise Cory and Jaime Cardinal Sin—that have sought her to power. Both events to remind the Cory magic is all in glory.

January came and went, and not a single statement on Edsa, or about Edsa, issued from the lips of the Arguin camp. We're on the second week of February and not a single statement on Edsa, or about Edsa, has issued from the Arguin camp. Say'se on the fifth month after Mommy declared his intention to run, and not much, if not not a single statement, has issued from the lips of the Arguin camp about their beloved republic and issues from the jet. A the least, that's the glimmer of hope piercing through the dark of despair about the people and their power.

The Cory magic is not something that works by itself; it works only by being used. The Cory magic is Edsa, the Cory magic is People Power, the Cory magic is people deciding they like, despite standing things, commanding things, standing at the top of their lungs, "Sawa na, sobra na, pahiya na." You do not invoke those things, you do not conjure those things, you do not call those things, you do not use those things, you do not use those things, you do not use

What constitutional crisis?

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

[illegible] DEMAGOGUERY COMING FROM THE PALACE is that, come hell or high water, President Macapagal-Arroyo will reject the 2012 bonus given by the late President Diosdado Macapagal and will appoint the next chief justice over Chief Justice Renato Corona once more [illegible].

But then we really are not so sure that she will. In fact, I am not so sure. But I am a little changing experience happen to Paul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus. He was struck blind by a voice saying "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" That road to Damascus is still open. And the voice might once again be heard.

My fears are based from but personally. My fears really based [illegible] to the wisdom of Palace spokespersons. Who knows, but it could be that the Palace could [illegible] to see what the reaction of the public might be.

But there are those who are instigating the fear that should she fail to appoint a chief justice and least the Office of Chief Justice vacant until a new president is sworn in, a constitutional crisis will arise. And there are others (why they themselves believe what they say) are mystifying.

What constitutional crisis? Let us calmly look at that.

What normally happens is, whenever a chief justice is absent, or there is no yet no chief justice, the most senior among the associate justices acts as the chief. In the history of our country, nothing unusual happened any time there was no acting chief. The last acting chief was Justice Reynato Puno, who normally, after all, succeeds justices are sent and women of noted merits.

As a matter of fact that is the procedure prescribed by the Judiciary Act. I myself have doubts about the constitutionality of that provision because the pursuit of the statutory prescription constitutes a designation of temporary chief justice by Congress, which is a power under appointment. But I am not [illegible] which is not within the present Constitution, but not been [illegible] by the Constitution, and the Court itself has accepted it as a wise procedure. It will remain [illegible] that was until the Court itself changes it, and there never will be a time when no one will be issued to perform the functions of a chief justice.

But there it is said that the times are pressed. If a selection must ordain a new associate justice, the elections will be used, which might lead to a presidential election contest. Who will preside should the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET) be called to constitute?

In the first place the Constitution does not speak of a PET. The Constitution simply says that in such a situation, the Supreme Court itself will adjudicate, but who will preside? Who else but the designated chief from among the Court's members.

It would be an insult to the associate justices if one were to say that none of them could, or they collectively could not, handle the job.

It is also said that, without a chief justice, there will be no one to satisfy that the vacancy provision has been followed in deciding cases. That reasoning is [illegible]. There will be the sitting chief. As a matter of fact, even the chief justice, in decisions [illegible] the division, simply brings to the attention of the chairman of her division. Unless [illegible] of a dissenter's abstentions being recorded by the chief justice.

One may also ask, who would preside should the petitioner be found to be ineligible? The Constitution says that the chief justice should preside, and you can be sure that if there should ever be an impeachment trial of a president after the vacant position must be [illegible] should preside as chief chief justice.

What all these scare-crows is is that there are as well as a time when no one will be there to prevent [illegible] from the frames of a chief justice. So where can the constitutional crisis come from?

First, it definitely is being propagated by the [illegible] opposition of some.

Second, it can come from what might happen in the Judicial and Bar Council process. What do I mean? In choosing the persons to be nominated to the Supreme Court, the Judicial and Bar Council normally enacts a non-binding recommendation of the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice would be expected to deliberate on who to recommend to the JBC. Can you imagine what the spectacle will be like when the justices deliberate as to who they would like willing to recommend as chief justice?

It is by now known that the justices who already sit on the issue of whether or not President Aquino may appoint a chief justice. You have already indicated that they will not accept an appointment. Senate Ma-Aarojo, while our others are willing to be nominated and be submitted to the senate without condition, even if they have not said that they will accept. I doubt that the rest of the justices have a unanimous view.

This is the issue: Can you imagine some about if the President, not having been granted with a solution, Pastor Dimension supervisor, should decide to appoint a chief justice. It will be an issue if the President should appoint one of the justices who have already indicated that they will not be alone. The justices are asked to decide whether the appointment of one of them as their chief is valid. The deliberations of the Court on the subject will have to be held in [illegible] and the media is getting his media story will have a host ending.

Of course, as I indicated in an earlier column, the incumbent Chief Justice might be tempted to retire more than less months before the election and would not be a candidate. Some presidential [illegible] that happens, who by president could with the Supreme Court, will not happen here. Or, perhaps, it will be contrary it's happened here?

Elegance

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio Montalvo

[illegible] BOTH ACCEPTANCE SPEECH DURING THE JUST One week held a few months after the Ortacular-divided inauguration, but after three-Nine, a known impression of [illegible] those promises before, the many others, gush over "the first black President."

Penn said something more remarkable: "I am glad that we have elected into the White House an elegant man."

This other, about elegant came to mind during the hearings on the Senate committee report on the allegedly merciless-C.S. cartoon project, where he supporters and detractor of Sen. Manny Villar engaged themselves in verbal exchanges over the latter's supposed lack of elegance.

The "logical" detractor, of his continental, had been to degrade that if they were after today, Cayo 10, Sarro, Lorenzo Tañada, Jose Diokno, but only Jovito Salonga deserves it, and even Ferdinand Marcos [illegible] of the Senate in general. In some cases, we couldn't be caught dead in it.

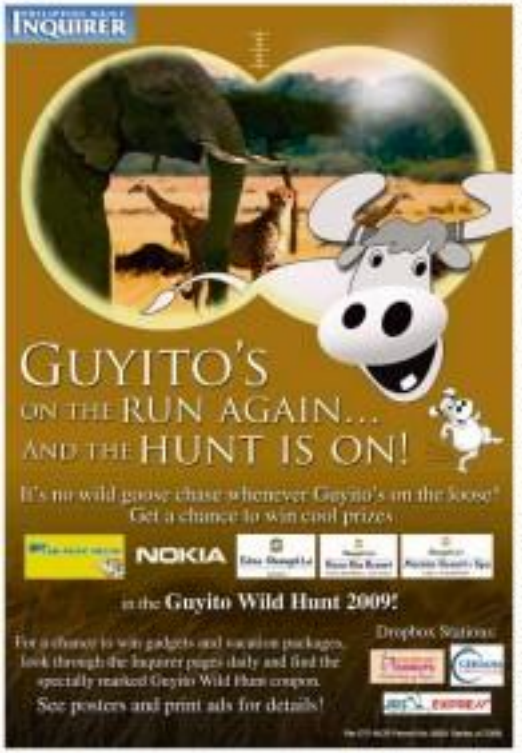
There were elegant men. In manner, dress and language they were elegant. They were elegant even in anger and never stooped to the gutter, at least not to full view of the public.

What happened to the tradition of legislative elegance? What happened to the tradition of [illegible] us?

Day by day the news, both print and broadcast, story almost nothing of consequence except the depressing figures of [illegible] and unemployment, and [illegible] OFWs forced to return home to return to the country and poverty they tried to lift their families from. Which now seems to be much more difficult to do with the rising prices of such commodities as [illegible] and rice, and now, power and electricity.

More than two months after the Magalohaens massacre, do realize seem to be still the focus of [illegible] justice, while Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is driving both of the populace both easy ways but [illegible] that the next president will be "lucky" to inherit [illegible].

And as if these were not enough, we have the [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]



Filipinos, beware!

LETTERS

WORST OF ALL IN THE ISSUE OF THE MASSIMINO measure is the resolution of Eliseo "Boy" Mangudadatu, in his testimony in favor, that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's henchmen, including then Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, attempted to circumvent him from investing the Ampatuans' political dominance over Maguindanao.

What kind of perfidious arrangements did GMA have with the Ampatuans, which we explain the order of arms and ammunition belonging to the Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines that were recovered from the clan's custody? What part did Teodoro, GMA's candidate for the presidency, play in her scheme of deception and intrigue? In the statements during hearings, Andal Ampatuan Jr., the principal suspect in the massacre case, has been opposed to display little concern about his predicament, much like GMA's statements with the general public's attitude toward her administration. Andal Jr.'s nonchalance partakes of the studied youthful arrogance of Teodoro, made visible on telephone plastered at the rear of many buses during the streets of Metro Manila.

The results like in the current campaign for public office a countenance in the sense that candidates are instructed to the public like toilet articles, making reference to the products' virtues than may routinely be trumpeted. Bayer Aspirin? Pick your vehicle with only the one you would never deodorant and your toilet paper?

—EDRUNDO B. ESMABANE JR., mesiskanay@yahoo.com

Blogger 'Ella' a poseur, not a 'citizen journalist'

THIS IS IN REACTION TO MANUEL L. QUEZON III's column titled "Cabral's crackdown," (Inquirer, 2/1/10).

Not posers and sin collective condemnation of our netizens against "Ella"—reported as it is—is that this blogger is no more than a pissed masquerading as an honest "citizen journalist." Her request was far from driven by a genuine passion to help her environment; it was a personal attack against the reputation and the Department of Social Welfare and Development. Consider these:

1. "Ella," while protesting that she wanted to do the DSWD waterhouse as the height of the relief operations, in fact, never went there. It has already been established that someone else went to volunteer and took the pictures that she uploaded in the blog—her brother. Why did she conceal this?

2. Contrary to Quezon's assertion that no one accused Ella of pilfering the relief goods, she did imply itself-made malicious insinuations that the goods were going to be used in the elections, or would end up being sold in public markets. If that is not a baseless accusation of thievery deserved as so, then I can't imagine what is.

3. The DSWD did intervened its love to forward sue out of legal action by trying to contact the blogger to hear her grievances. However, she did not seem to talk to us personally. Quezon said that every accused has the right to face his or her accuser. We subscribe to the same stand. Quezon expressed his opposition over the alleged abuse of power in use of "government resources" to advance our case. We desire very much investigation and prosecution of services are available to the public in general.

We would like to state that we do not want this to be construed as an insult against the blogging community in general. We recognize the valuable role that bloggers play in upholding the basic freedoms of our citizens. What we are against is the deliberate spread of lies that, if left unchecked, will allow charlatans and pathhooks to ride on the freedom of speech to destroy the reputation of honest civil servants, people, whether they be in the government or not.

—DR. CESPEDARIO I. CABRAL, secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Building 1, San Lazaro Compound, Elliptical Avenue, Manila

Billboard cases already pending with Makati MTC

THIS HAS REFERENCE TO A PHOTO THAT appeared in the Other's Qlic section of the Feb. 11 issue of the Inquirer. The photo was captioned as follows: "Bright Deadly Dangerous. K. Perez, 38, of Makati City writes: The LCD billboard beside The Professional Tower (next/dressed Ayala, near Guadalupe, Makati) showed the taboo down or dressed, six to eight, drivers and commuters find it hard to see where they're going at night."

According to Engineer Oscar F. Cano, mayor of the MMDA MCB Second Metro Manila Engineering District, the LED billboard is the subject of two cases filed by the Department of Justice with the Metropolitan Trial Court (MTC) in Makati City, specifically in the sala of Judge Ronald B. Moreno, for violation of Sec. 39 of the Philippine Highway Act of 1953 as amended by Republic Act 917, and for violation of Sections 301 and 3601 in relation to Sec. 2315 of the National Building Code.

—ELIZABETH B. PILORIN, OIC-chief, Public Information Division, Department of Public Works and Highways

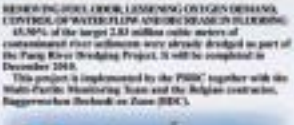
The Pasig River Rehabilitation Report

THE Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) is on its way to meet the 12 targets recommended by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to rehabilitate and restore the pristine condition of the Pasig River.

REMOVING SOFT CHOOL, LESSENING OXYGEN DEMAND, CONTROL OF WATER FLOW AND DECREASE IN FLOODING

45.50% of the target 2.83 million cubic meters of contaminated river sediments were already dredged as part of the Pasig River Dredging Project. It will be completed in December 2010.

This project is implemented by the PRRC together with the Multi-Partite Monitoring Team and the Belgian contractor, Baggerwerken Decloedt en Zoon (BDC).



REDUCING AND REMOVING SOLID WASTE FROM THE RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

15% or four (4) of the proposed 12 materials recovery facilities (MRFs) are now operational.

There are 500 Pasig River patrollers and environmental police deployed to patrol the river daily for 24 hours.

Under the Pasig River cleanup drive, 5,000 cubic meters of garbage were collected from the river and its 63 esteros, while 8,630 cubic meters of silt were also removed. 17 out of 63 esteros were already cleared, and garbage traps are now installed in these creeks to gather floating river waste.

ENFORCEMENT OF EXISTING LAWS

The PRRC supports the strict implementation of the Water Code and other ordinances, except the one against the continuous operation of the oil depots.

It has also been working with local officials in Metro Manila for the implementation of their respective zoning laws.

REMOVAL OF SUNKEN VESSELS

The PRRC is continuously removing all sunken vessels.

DEVELOPING LINEAR PARKS

46 linear parks were already constructed on 25 of the target 28 kilometers or 66% of the riverside areas.

RELOCATION OF INFORMAL SETTLERS

To date, 9,217 out of the aimed 10,113 informal-settler families have been relocated to the PRRC's housing projects. Also, 81 informal settlers received financial assistance worth P29,920 (per family) and were brought back to their home provinces under the Balik-Probinsya Program.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A WATER TRANSPORT SERVICE

432,400 passengers have been served by the Pasig River Ferry Service for the year 2009. The ferry system has 16 fully operational stations from Manila to Taguig City. The ferry system is managed by the PRRC with its operator, Nautical Transport Services, Inc. (NTSI).

AERATION AND FILTRATION/BIOREMEDIATION

Seven (7) out of 17 (41%) of all channel esteros or creeks now have filtration and aeration devices to filter and add more oxygen to the river water. Three (3) of these 7 creeks (43%) are undergoing treatment.

Filtering bacteria have also been mixed with the river water in Brgy. Napindan, Taguig City.

The PRRC Environmental Management division ensures that these projects are carefully done in coordination with the local government units.

PHYTOREMEDIATION

Four (4) areas were planted with millionaire's vine plants to filter dirty materials from the river and to green the riversides.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY

To keep the people informed of its ongoing projects, the PRRC conducts:

- educational tours using the river's ferry system
- concerts promoting respect for the river
- exhibits to local and international meetings
- lectures and leaflet distribution
- press releases/media coverage.

The PRRC's Public Information and Advocacy (PIA) division, through its awareness campaign, is constantly planning activities to get public support.

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Dungca

CHEd asked to regulate nursing test of repeaters

By Nestor P. Burgio Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER Education (CHEd) in Western Visayas is calling for the regulation of the taking of the nursing licensure examination by topnotchers or those who failed to pass the test.

Dr. Ben Cutajar, CHEd assistant regional director, said repeaters pulled down the passing percentage of 18 nursing schools in Western Visayas, which have otherwise performed well during the November 2009 nursing board examination.

Citing data from the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), Cutajar said 4,020 out of 8,827 examinees in Western Visayas or 50 percent passed the examination, the result of which was released on Feb. 1. The regional passing rate is 10.26 percent higher than the national passing average of 39.72 percent.

Sixteen of the 21 nursing schools in the region (76 percent) were high performers or performing above the national average, according to Cutajar.

Ten of the 40 examinees who were among the top 10 passers were from Western Visayas including Karmina Isabel Dormaal of St. Paul University-Iloilo who tied with two other examinees for fifth place with a passing grade of 86.40 percent.

Those who made it to the top 10 included five graduates from the St. Paul University-Iloilo, two from Central Philippine University, and one each from the Silay Visayas Institute, Aklan State University and West Negros College.

But Cutajar said the repeaters pulled down the regional passing average noting that the passing average of the first-takers was 60 percent while that of the repeaters was 24 percent. Only 540 of the 2,200 repeaters passed.

He said this was also true of the national passing average of 39.72 percent with the passers among first takers reaching 49.09 percent while repeaters had a national average of 20.69 percent.

Of the 34,462 examinees who took in the nursing board in the country, 54,306 or 57.6 percent were first takers and 40,000 or 42.2 percent were repeaters, according to Cutajar.

He said the CHED and PRC must formulate a policy to regulate the taking by repeaters of the board examination or require them to take refresher subjects at home.

Aside from the significant number of repeaters who took the examinations, Cutajar said the performance of nursing schools was affected by the lack of school-owned hospitals and lack of qualified faculty.

He said most of the nursing schools in Western Visayas lacked hospitals to accommodate the training of students with only six of the 21 nursing schools in the region owning a hospital.

The huge number of nursing students also require more beds to accommodate the students.

Cutajar said many of the nursing graduates have taken up nursing as a second course because of the demand for nurses abroad. Many of them were not fully trained as a nurse because some of the subjects taken in their first course were credited to nursing subject requirements, he said.

CHR to probe killings of 3 LP supporters

PAGADIAN CITY—THE COMMISSION ON Human Rights (CHR) launched an investigation into the spate of killings in Zamboanga del Sur where at least four supporters of the Liberal Party had died.

CHR Chair Leila de Lima said among those being investigated by the agency's office here are the deaths of Bantil Abliri, Hadja Hamira Adhilah Agsung and Hendi Idris Pasigan "Steve" Tupaldo.

The victims, supporters of Labuyan Vice Mayor Kiby Hasalang and his mother, Mayor Khadafar Abliri, died during separate attacks covering January.

"The Commission for Inter-cognizance of the matter since Jan. 18 when our attention was called by the group of the incumbent Vice Mayor of Labuyan, Zamboanga del Sur," De Lima said in her Feb. 1 letter to the LP leadership, a copy of which was obtained by the Inquirer.

The Commission on Elections summoned politicians in the province into a dialogue on Saturday, during which they signed a covenant for a peaceful and orderly conduct of elections.

Helen Aguila-Flores, Silsayan Mikdasen election director, said the politicians pledged to "not employ force, threat and intimidation."

Among those who signed the covenant were outgoing Zamboanga del Sur Gov. Aurora Cerdiña and outgoing Vice Gov. Rosalie Jalosjos.

Maj. Gen. Benito Lorenzo, commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division, said he had signed the covenant "not as witness but as principal to underscore our commitment to make the 2010 polls as peaceful as possible." Ed Harvard Ryan Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao

Glitches mar mock polls in 2 schools

By Jhoanna Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—ELECTION OFFICIALS announced that the mock elections held in two schools in Cebu City were successful despite minor glitches.

It was also observed that someone could also affect the transmission signals, especially in the mountain barangay of Malubog.

Cebu election supervisor Lionel Marco Casilhan, one of those who supervised the mock election at the Malubog Elementary School, said they had to use the AGAO Omnibond global area network) satellite antenna because of the fluctuating mobile network signals in the village, which is 21 kilometers from the city proper.

The fluctuating mobile phone network signal caused the delay of the transmission of the result of the voting to the Cebu City Board of Canvassers.

The actual voting in Malubog was finished at 9 a.m., but the result was transmitted only at 9:58 a.m., he said.

Casilhan said the flashing of camera lights from television crew and newspaper photographers also added to the fluctuating network signals.

He said he would expect that to the Comelec-manned office and overseas, mind first no video footages or photos be taken until the transmission of the results were finished, at least in remote areas.

Voter' education was also found lacking, especially among older voters.

Casilhan said a 70-year-old voter failed to fully shade the dated circle for candidates, which resulted to the rejection of the ballot when it was inserted to the Precinct Count Optical Scan (PCOS) machine.

In the second run after the oval was fully shaded, the machine no longer rejected the ballot.

Casilhan said older voters who could hardly see the oval to be shaded or read the names of candidates should bring eyeglasses or be assisted since eyesight problem is considered a disability that could allow a voter to get assistance from a relative.

In Balamcan Community School, located in a densely populated urban barangay in southern Cebu City, only 89 had 400 were accepted. One ballot was rejected because the voter intentionally marked the bottom of the ballot.

The mock election in Balamcan went smoothly, with the result transmitted to the city board of canvassers at 9:42 a.m.

Cebu City north district election officer Marcilet Isaac, who served as assistant in the board during the mock election, said they were able to transmit the result to the Comelec Central Office at 10:06 a.m.

Isaac and Casilhan confirmed that Cebu was again the first area to transmit its result to the central office.

When the first field test was done two weeks ago in selected areas in the country including in two remote villages in Cebu's town of Bogo, Cebu was the first to transmit its result.

Isaac said this vote-test information that they could report a successful holding of the country's first automated election in Cebu.

Comelec officials in Cebu relieved military and police officials, journalists, lawyers and representatives from the youth and Muslim sectors to take part in the mock elections, aside from the preselected registered voters in the test barangays.

Each barangay had 50 voters who participated in the mock polls.

MARY EDWARD (left), 72, and Erica Nolasco, 71, greeted each other at their Class Diamond High School reunion the mock election held in Bogo on Saturday. The old woman cast their ballot shading with manual inking down their votes. | INQUIRER VISAYAS PHOTO

Juan's FARE share!

Enjoy 50% less on all our destinations!

50% off ALL DOMESTIC & INTERNATIONAL

(Bangkok, Busan, Guangzhou, Ho Chi Minh, Hong Kong, Incheon, Jakarta, Kota Kinabalu, Kuala Lumpur, Macau, Osaka, Singapore, Shanghai or Taipei)

Sale Period: Feb. 5-8, 2010

Travel Period: May 1 - Jul. 31, 2010

Non-refundable • Limited availability
Discount is not applicable on government fees and taxes.
Flight changes must be made more than 1 day before date of departure.
Get 30 kilos free baggage allowance until June 30, 2010 when you fly to or from Hong Kong, Macau, Bangkok or Singapore via Clark!
CAB approved terms and conditions of carriage apply and are available online at http://www.cebupacificair.com/terms&conditions.html
Call (02) 70-20-888 in Manila, (032) 230-88-88 in Cebu or visit the travel agent near you.

Up to 30% discount on hotel bookings for Fun Tours and Hotels Plus too!

CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

Resolve cases vs Syjuco, Arenas asks Ombudsman

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—SOCIALITE ROSEMARIE "Baby" Arenas has initiated her push to Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) Director General Augusto Syjuco calling on the Office of the Ombudsman to resolve pending cases against Syjuco, including a complaint for plunder.

Arenas, widow of Ramon "Chiky" Arenas Jr. is running against Syjuco for representative of Iloilo's second congressional district, and she was "wondering" why the cases against Syjuco have not been resolved considering that these involved significant amounts of government funds.

"What is the Ombudsman doing? Why is it still pending? Why is nothing being done?" Arenas told the Inquirer on Friday.

She said these have already been countless reports of these alleged irregularities and corruption involving Syjuco but she has not heard any action from the Office of the Ombudsman.

Arenas challenged Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez to act on the cases.

Documented cases

"These are documented cases and not hearsay. What are you doing?" Syjuco has repeatedly denied the charges and has accused his political rivals of instigating and pushing for the allegations. He has cited the proximity of the May elections as the reason for the complaints against him.

Among the cases that Arenas wants resolved is the plunder case filed by the Public Services Labor Independent Confederation (PSLink), a federation of government employees, who accused Syjuco of irregularities in the alleged overprice in the purchase of Tesda's training equipment.

The complaint filed on August last year alleged that the training equipment were overpriced by P60,864,195.38. The overprice ranged from 4 to 42,723 percent per item, according to a report of the Commission on Audit.

Plunder involves the theft or misuse of at least P50 million or more.

Syjuco has denied involvement in the alleged overpricing but an investigating committee formed headed Lt. Ombudsman Emilio Gonzalez III found enough evidence to implead him in the purchase of the training equipment worth P102 million.

He has requested for separate investigations to be conducted by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

Deaths

The Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) had found Syjuco guilty of grave misconduct in 2008 over the printing of his book "Soldier for the Filipino Soul," which cost P9.2 million but was printed without public bidding.

The PAGC had also filed the complaint for corruption against Syjuco in connection with the book project. But the decision was subsequently overturned by the Committee of Peers in Malacañang.

Arenas said the cases should be resolved to erase doubts and questions especially of voters in Syjuco's district.

"I believe he should be disqualified if the charges will be proven. As a Lakas-Kampi candidate, he is destroying the image of the whole party," Arenas said.

Syjuco is the Lakas-Kampi candidate for congressman in Iloilo's 2nd district, while Arenas' son Ramon, whose family owns vast tracts of land in the district and who has established residence in his father's grandmother's hometown Zarraga, is running under the Nacionalista Party's Coalition.

Arenas ran but lost for senator under the HPC in the 1995 elections. Her daughter Stephanie Rep. Ma. Rachel Arenas is running for re-election.

Presidential candidates face toughest test today

From page A1

as Aquino III is answer why, if he thought his good friend Sen. Mar Roxas had "done the ultimate sacrifice by letting you run," Aquino didn't make the ultimate sacrifice himself and give way to Roxas.

The question of Bayelsa Mabasa Salgado of Bodiguayo, Ifugal, for the municipal Sen. Manny Villar was a response to one of his most frequently aired commercials: "Sir, your ads seemed glaringly poverty. Malamang ito na Sa sa dagat ng buhay? Angkop ba ito sa isa Indonesia? (Were you slept in an ocean of trash? How can you relate Filipinos on the street) As what is so dignifying about being poor?"

And a registered nurse from Makati, Elmalie, asked candidate Jejomar Binay: "Mr. Vice President, you seemed to motivate the crowd when you said that if elected, you will [illegible] Do you have any plan to [illegible]?"

These questions reflect the sense of urgency that seemed to motivate the audience to seek the time to dig out their hopes, to reclaim their dignity.

A number of questions couldn't be described as angry or downright hostile to one or more candidates. But many were even courteous or seemingly free of bias.

Many of the questions were addressed to all the presidential candidates, but a substantial number were directed specifically to either Aquino, Villar or Poe. (A few were addressed to former President Joseph Estrada.)

As of press time, only Estrada, who was the first to accept the invitation to debate, had not yet confirmed his attendance.

Aside from Villar, Poe, Binay and Aquino, the other candidates who have guaranteed to take part in the debate are JC delos Reyes, Jose Richard Gordon, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, Manuel Roxas, Nicanor Perlas and Rev. Eddie Villanueva.

The debate is open to all media.

Common question

Several citizen media sent in essentially the same question: "If you were not running, who would you vote for?"

Most of them explained why they thought it was important to know, but Mark Peralta of Singapore suggested one possible explanation.

Peralta called on the candidates to answer the questions separately and not to decline or to give a vague reply. Comm. Cris Bunoan admonished the presidential candidates, "not a good example."

Readers were informed before the end that the hosts/moderators could not guarantee that every question would be read, or even addressed.

But of several hundred questions, a list containing 43 consolidated questions was put together at around noon yesterday by the organizing committee. (The three questions read aloud above were no longer included in the list.)

The list was then reviewed by the moderators—veteran broadcasters Dean Raul Pangalangan, Fr. Joaquin Bernas, Al Ries, Antonio David, Michael Tan and Carlos Nuñez, and business executive Jorge Sevilla (opinion editor), Raul Maroño (business editor), Fe Zamora (senior political reporter) and Rina Jimenez-David (news editor).

The panelists then chose two questions each, or a total of 15, which they will take during the debate's second round of questioning. In addition, nine questions will be asked by representatives of partner organizations, or a total of 27 questions from outside the bayanes.

In the first and third rounds of questioning, the panelists will ask a combined total of 54 questions; the choice and phrasing of each question is a matter of the panelist's discretion. One consequence of the setup is that there is no answer list of questions to be asked during the debate.

Another is that the total number of questions is not of questions is a relatively high 43, with each candidate fielding nine questions over a combined "talk time" of almost 15 minutes each.

Public response

Tickets to the 10 "Bayanihan" were distributed through the secretariat's contact organizations, except for about 200 that were provided to readers who sent intriguing questions.

"Bayanihan 1st Edition: The Presidential Debate" is cosponsored by Globe and cosponsored by the 10 College of Mass Communication.

The organization of the questions, however, who is was still ongoing as of press time, was solely the responsibility of the organizing committee and, with the help of hundreds of listeners and bayanihan are readers, the panelists themselves.

For the first time, transcripts of the debates' remarks will be posted online, and not for the first

GMA still for Gibo, says Malacañang

From page A1

"She has every reason to know him and to support him," Ochoa said.

The Palace spokesperson advised the presidential candidates to leave Mr. Arroyo out of the picture, arguing that she has her own campaign to run in the second congressional district of Pampanga.

"Please keep the Palace and the President out of the campaign," he said.

"She is not campaigning for obviously their level and platform is not one your campaign of her supporter. Focus on the issues. Focus on each other. Do not drag the President into your own campaign," he added.

The camp of former President Joseph Estrada yesterday said it was convinced that Mr. Arroyo was supporting Villar.

"Definitely. It's barring that argument," former Sen. Ernesto Maceda, Estrada's chief campaigner, told the reporters. "Haven't of so many people identified as close to [GMA's] circle now with Villar."

Maceda cited Education Secretary Jesli Lapus who he said once gallivanted in front of Malacañang pledge support behind Villar.

In Batangas, the administration party is backing Villar's candidacy, former Gov. Armand Sanchez, in his bid to unseat incumbent Gov. Vilma Santos of Sen. Ralph, "Nonoy" Agunio (Ri's Liberal Party (LP).

But Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, who is running for Congress in the province, had said that the "management" to support Sanchez did not necessarily mean that he would support Villar in the national level.

GMA's option

With the 2010 presidential election shaping up as a two-horse race between Villar and Aquino, it is inevitable that Ms. Arroyo will throw her lot with Villar, said Pimentel chief. Jr., LP campaign manager.

"In case the race is down to a maneuverers fight, and what we see to be where it is headed, Villar will be the only option for 2004, especially if she wants to be a Speaker," he said.

But Reginald Velasco, Lakas-Kampi-CMD deputy secretary general, said Ms. Arroyo remained "LDI percent" behind Teodoro's presidential run. "Till death do they part," Velasco quipped.

Abad said that Villar "by his acquiescence of being critical of [GMA] has predisposed himself to the possibility [Villar's Arroyo alliance]." Since Aquino would not relent to a compromise agreement with Arroyo, Villar has become his last chance for power.

In a text message, Abad said that the LP would "mount a more 'aggressive discriminative'" of Aquino's campaign slogan—"Kung walang corrupt, walang mahirap" (no corruption, no poverty)—with the start of the campaign season next year.

"We will not match Villar's spending but we will remember the people's strong rejection of money and 'trapo' or traditional politics and their aspirations for clean, decent and transparent and accountable government," he said.

Black propaganda

Abad noted that Villar had spent 30 times the P7 million that Aquino spent for television ads during the Cheer-the-server protest last month which the LP had traced to the resources he used in the surveys.

He said the LP had agreed to go for "dignified, more frugal and sustained ads up to the end," as well as depend on volunteer support through word-of-mouth and house-to-house campaigning.

Gilbert Remulla, Nacionalista Party spokesperson and senatorial candidate, challenged the LP to show evidence of its claim.

"There is absolutely no truth to the black propaganda they are spreading now that Senator Villar has tied or even overtaken Senator Aquino in the surveys. It stole at desperation and lose part," Remulla told the reporters by phone.

"We challenge the Liberal Party, right now, if it's possible for them to find to their political strategy to campaign positively instead of having a negative campaign," he added. "We are asking them for tangible proof instead of spreading rumors."

Survey front-runners no-show in debate

From page A1

ay," Villar—for skipping some presidential debates, including yesterday's forum sponsored by the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) and TV5.

The forum, held at Miriam College in Quezon City, also gave ex-President Joseph Estrada a chance to say what he would do to protect himself from any lawsuit he'll file. If he is elected again in the May presidential contest.

Aquino, Villar, as well as reelection senator candidate and former Dr. Brian Secretary Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro Jr. and Gloriana Raymond Lipuzzo's Fitchburg Accords did not show up at the debate, dubbed Pag-Isbatan 2010 (Clash), which was also sponsored by Mickan Go Dep.

Those who showed up aside from Gordon and Estrada were Sen. Jamby Madrigal, environmentalist Nicanor Perlas, evangelist Eddie Villanueva and Guardian JC de los Reyes.

The forum was divided into four "rounds" aimed at testing the mettle of each candidate when confronted with questions from their own circle. Seven experts, from different sectors representing varied interests.

The answers of the candidates were framed in two minutes or more for each.

Where are they?

De los Reyes asked Gordon, for starts, whom he would vote for between Aquino and Villar.

"You know, Johnson," Gordon began, using his nephew's nickname and speaking in a blend of English and Filipino. "That's why you and I and all those very good candidates are running because we can't choose between the two of them."

"You know why? Where are they now? This is the PPCRV debate in one of the greatest colleges in our country. But where is Mayor? Where is Villar?" Gordon asked, raising cheers from the crowd.

Gordon pressed on. "I have to be frank and candid with our people ... If they are not going to appear before the people and will just depend on the amount of money they have ... I am already telling Ms. Gil, Jr., 'You cannot buy the presidency.'"

Gordon also took a swipe at Aquino when he said the presidency was something earned and not inherited.

"If I want to say is this should have the people in these kinds of events. They should show the people their performance. You can't hide in the shadows of great leaders. You can't look back to the past alone. Walk with the promise of the future," he said.

Jamby's questions

Aquino in holding a slim lead of a few points over Villar in the fight for the presidency according to the last survey results released by the Pulse Asia polling outfit. The other contenders are trailing far behind.

One of the questions that Madrigal got asked Estrada was what he would do differently if he was once again elected.

Estrada replied: "I'll be more cautious of those people conspiring behind my back."

Estrada was ousted from Malacañang in January 2001 after he was impeached on charges of corruption and some key members of his Cabinet switched allegiance and joined the camp of then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who then took power.

Asked by Madrigal if he would "enact plunder charges" as he filed against Ms. Arroyo and Villar, Estrada said he would "follow the rule of law."

"If they are properly charged, I will have to go to the judiciary. I will see to it the judiciary has independence and I will not interfere in all these charges against them," Estrada said.

'Not my fault'

Earlier, Cruz-Velez, TFS news and current affairs chief, asked Estrada how he would guarantee freedom of the press if he returned to power, considering that he initiated an advertising boycott against the Inquirer because of its critical news about him.

Estrada said it was not him, but his friends, who initiated the boycott.

He also said that during his impeachment trial, even if the media had insinuated he was guilty, "I didn't say you, I didn't lift a finger ... I was very fair during my time."

Value of surveys

Gordon asked Perlas if he agreed that voters should have a change of attitude about surveys and political advertisements.

Perlas replied that surveys had been a "traditional, shallow means of political discussions."

Referring to presidential debates, Perlas said: "The reason why these events are being held is that we have to now wake up as a nation to truly determine the kind of leadership that our country needs. You can't get that if you survive."

The show's host said the organizers had invited all 10 candidates but that while everybody confirmed they were coming, some canceled their appearances at the last minute for various reasons.

TYRANNY OF GUILE

We witnessed in the past few days a rising public indignation against an attempt of this administration in its dying days to extend power by proxy. We witnessed the brazen and sly attempt to pave the way for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to appoint the next Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

We have an administration adept at operating in the shadows trying to make a midnight appointment. Not content with appointing all but one of the men and women sitting in the High Court, this outgoing President desires nothing less than absolute domination even at the expense of violating our fundamental law.

We condemn this move to have the outgoing President appoint the next Chief Justice that also paves the way for the appointment of his replacement. This yields a Supreme Court of 15 Justices, all of whom were appointed by the same President. It is yet another manifestation of shameless impunity. It is yet another arrogant display of power. It is yet another breach of our trust. We see clearly through this brash yet clumsy attempt to shield the guilty from accountability.

We are appalled to see brilliant minds so servile and to hear spin spewing from glib but forked tongues. They have all been reduced to peddle silly lies that insult their own intelligence.

We do not claim to be legal luminaries but we can all read and understand our fundamental law. The Chief Justice is a member of the Supreme Court. The President can only appoint a Chief Justice from a list of nominees submitted by the Judicial and Bar Council. Midnight appointments are prohibited by the Constitution. This ban stays until June 30. The next President has 45 days from assuming office on June 30 to appoint the next Chief Justice. Our Constitution is not the exclusive domain of lawyers. It is the most fundamental law that binds us all.

We call on anyone with ambition to lead our judicial institutions not to be seduced by power and shun any unconstitutional appointment. There is no honor in empty titles conferred by deceit. There is a price to pay for complicity in criminal acts for those who conspire in this midnight appointment and anyone who benefits from it.

We call on Chief Justice Reynato Puno to rise and meet this defining moment as his judicial career comes to a close. We ask for his strong moral leadership as Chairman of the Judicial and Bar Council and reject calls to transmit to this outgoing President the list of nominees for his replacement. Let not a tarnished and divided Supreme Court be his legacy to our nation.

We admire those who, with the courage of their convictions and in plain and simple words, make their intentions known without equivocation. We are inspired by people who take a stand against this tyranny of guile.

We call on others aspiring to lead our country to likewise condemn in the strongest possible terms the acts of this administration that undermine judicial independence and further erode our democratic institutions. It is their bounden duty to do so. We ask them to also tell our people how they intend to deal with the excesses of this administration when they assume the mantle of leadership.

We find comfort knowing that the abuse will soon come to pass. We vow to work for a better future in the company of people who have the courage to speak truth to power.

We remain committed to work for good governance and the restoration of decency and propriety in public service.

We stand as one in defense of our Constitution and the Rule of Law.

Sen. Victorio Pimentel | Sen. Loren Legarda | Rafael Alunan III | Jose Cuisia | Karina Constantino-David
Edilberto De Jesus, Jr. | Rafael Del Rosario Jr. | Teresita Quintos Deles | Carlos Dominguez | Jesus Estanislao
Florello Eduar | Fulgencio Factoran, Jr. | Ernesto Garilao | Cecilia Garrucho | Pedro Ma Jalbuna
Ernest Leung | Nereuisa Lim | Imelda Nicolas | Cayetano Paderanga | Cesar Purisima
Victor Ramos | Juan Santos | Cesar Sarino | Corazon Juliano Soliman | Jaime Galvez Tan
Tomas Africa | Ariel Aguirre | Angelito Banayo | Lincoln Briones | Victor Gerardo Briones
Bolderas Campilo, Jr. | Efren Cruz | Isagani Cruz | Neri Sto. Rimosia Cruz | Guillermo Curaytes
Mikaela Guevarra | Nixon Kua | Lina Laigo | Alberto Lim | Juan Miguel Luz
Gregorio Magdaong | Jose Mutuc, Jr. | Vitaliano Nanagas | Norberto Nolasco | Guillermo Parayno, Jr.
Felicito Payumo | Miguel Perez Rubio | Amina Rasul | Wilfredo Reyes | Soto Rosas
Hector Soliman | Ricardo Mirasol Tan | Wilfredo Villacorta | Rudel Cruz

Kin of 43 health workers go to high court

From page A1

son relatives," Nonna L. Chanco, husband of Merry Mia, one of the doctors taken into custody, said on Sunday at a press conference in Quezon City. Chanco is the deputy secretary general of the human rights watchdog Karapatan.

A writ of amparo is a special legal instrument issued by the Supreme Court to protect people whose rights have been violated by government activities or acts of omission. A writ of habeas corpus is used to require a person to be brought before a judge or court, and to protect him or her against illegal imprisonment.

The health workers were arrested in a raid house owned by Dr. Melencio Nebrasa, while they were taking part in a health-training seminar, according to seminar organizers.

Nebrasa is a consultant at Philippine General Hospital for infectious diseases and president emeritus at the College of Medicine of the University of the Philippines.

The seminar participants were raided by members of the 2nd Infantry Division of the Philippine Army and the Philippine National Police.

Dr. Ernesto Rivera, chair of the Health Alliance for Democracy, said it had already been past 24 hours since the mass arrest, but the military refused to release any of the health workers in their residence and workspace.

Rivera said her group would file the petition for the issuance of the writs of amparo and habeas corpus to the Supreme Court today.

"We've stayed here outside Camp Capinpin. If the military camp in Tanay, Rizal, where the 43 are detained and they have not shown us any sign that they are OK," she said.

Rivera also said her group lost contact with all the 43 after the military confiscated all the mobile phones of the seminar participants.

CHR denied entry

Also refused entry into the camp were representatives of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).

"That's an affront to our institution and a disrespect to our mandate. Our external powers are expressly guaranteed in the constitution. We will lodge a formal protest with the AFP leadership," CHR Chair Leila de Lima said in a text message to reporters.

Officers of the organizers of the seminar—Council for Health and Development (CHD) and Community Medicine Development Foundation (COMDF)—said the participants were not making explosives.

"CHD denies the claim of the military that the participants were undergoing bomb-making training," said the CHD executive director, Dr. Eleanor A. Jara.

Health skills training

Jara said the participants were holding a four-"responders" health skills seminar aimed at facilitating the exchange of knowledge and skills of health professionals and community health workers to develop their capacities in providing health care services to the poorest of the poor.

Dr. Gene Jay Montes, a son of Dr. Alex Montes, 68, a lecturer at the seminar and one of those taken into custody, linked our at the government for his father's arrest.

"We believe you seem to help those people to be floating areas to be given medical care by training volunteers. Instead of the government being grateful, this is what he gets for doing charity work," the son said after the press conference.

The young Montes said he and his 16-year-old brother, Christian, drove to Camp Capinpin on Saturday evening after they learned about their father's arrest, but were not allowed to enter the gate.

"We said my family are outraged at the injustice and harassment they do to my father who is just doing what the government should be doing," the young Montes said.

He said his father had been doing charity consultations all these years. "He loved to share his knowledge for the poor, and he was just doing it again...resulting health workers what to do as first responders to a medical situation."

He said his father was not a member of the NPA.

Respondents

Named respondents in the petition for a writ of habeas corpus were Brig. Gen. Jorge Segovia, commander of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division; Col. Aurelio Baladad, commander of the Army's 202nd Infantry Brigade; and Supt. Marcial Bahinting of the PNP/PRO.

The 43 health workers have been reportedly deprived by respondents of their right to counsel, according to the petition. It says relatives, lawyers, medical doctors and human rights defenders have been prevented from visiting or conferring privately with the health workers in Camp Capinpin.

"All the 43 men and women of the medical profession are detained and deprived of their liberty by respondents, without any lawful order of arrest, and are charged with the limit of their constitutional rights," the petition added.

Jara said the doctors, nurses and community health workers were tricked, blindfolded and forcibly taken by at least 300 armed soldiers and loaded into six fly-ins vehicles and six unmarked cars.

The CHD director also lamented that the health workers were among those serving to remote areas where government personnel and services were lacking or simply inaccessible.

"At thousands of Filipino health workers are drawn to the countryside because of lack of enough opportunities, the government scrutinizes the very few who chose to stay and serve their fellow citizens," Jara said.

Among those who took part in the seminar and are now believed to be in military custody are Dr. Merry Mia Clanlar, Dr. Alex Montes, Nurse Gary Liwanag, midwife Lorna Quinsayas, and community health workers Lydia Olaera, Reynaldo Macabeo Jr., Alipala Dalodoan, Delia Dotalo, Jaime Javier, Franco Bermoreso, Aliene Hermosisyo, Pearl Irene Montones and Elen Cantuching.

In a statement, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan blamed until the CHD doctors and health professionals were at the "forefront of relief efforts" when Typhoons "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" devastated large parts of the country last year.

Search warrant sagot

"The search warrant was very vague. It should have stated the name and address of Dr. Montes, because she is the owner of the house," Rivera said.

But the military, in an earlier statement, said the search warrant was against a certain Mario Conales of Barangay Maybang sad, Morong.

"All evidence they (military) claimed they recovered are inadmissible because the warrant and the arrest were flawed," Rivera added.

But the military maintained that the seminar was illegal.

"We cannot present the 43 because it might spoil the ongoing investigation," said Lt. Colonel Frank Luposo, chief of the Public Affairs Office of the Army's 2nd ID.

"If (what) right if they want to file charges but we have evidence to support their contention in the anticipated (inaudible)... As our commander said, we are 101 percent sure (that) are members of the NPA," Luposo quoted Segovia as saying.

Rivera said Montes of the CMDF and Chanco of the CHD were medical practitioners for the poor.

"Contrary to allegations made by Col. Aurelio Baladad of the 202nd Infantry Brigade, the people they are holding are hospital medical personnel who are well-known to their patients and the communities they serve," Rivera said.

Rivera said Nurses for Change, Liberal and Quinsayan were conducting De training, when soldiers arrested them. With reports from Norman Bordadora, and Reyes Lapitan, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Villar above rules of Senate

From page A1

have who have been investigated for wrongdoing or abuse of parliamentary privilege.

There is public outrage in the Philippines over Villar's investments, an effort to outrage in billions over the MP claims of expenses stemming from the discharge of parliamentary duties.

This report is based on accounts of BBC Mundo, especially BBC News and its reported Times.

On Friday, Director of Public Prosecutions Eric Stenner laid charges of false accounting under Section 17 of the Theft Act of 1968 against MPs Elliot Morley Ann Davies, David Chaytor, all Labor, and the Tory peer Lord Hanningfield.

Rent, cleaning services

The MPs face a maximum sentence of seven years in prison if convicted. Morley faces two charges over 16,000 pounds of mortgage interest claims; Chaytor is accused of dishonestly claiming 1,358 pounds for IT services and 13,000 pounds for rent. Davies is accused of claiming 3,340 pounds for cleaning services and 5,500 pounds for stationery, and Lord Hanningfield faces six charges of dishonestly submitting expense claims.

Lord Hanningfield denies the charge, saying he will "vigorously" defend himself in court. However, he immediately stood down from Foot Irish duties to the House of Lords, as shadow business spokesperson "to avoid embarrassment or distraction for third party."

The Conservatives suspended him from the parliamentary party. He has also quit as leader of the Essex County Council.

The Labor Party says no less severe on its MPs. All three Labor MPs denied the charges and said they would defend themselves "vigorously". Labor Prime Minister Gordon Brown was unmoved, saying he was "very angry about what has happened."

Serious criminal allegations

He said: "We took steps some months ago to remove the right of those people to stand as candidates for the Labor Party. These are very serious criminal allegations. All criminal allegations have got to be investigated. It's a matter now for the courts."

The four men will not be invited but will be sent statements to sum up on March 11 at Ge-City of Westminster magistrates court.

"We have established that there is sufficient evidence to bring criminal charges and that it is in the public interest to charge the individuals concerned," the prosecutor said.

The MPs invoked their privileges of parliamentary immunity, saying they maintain that the issue should be resolved by the parliamentary commissioner "who is there to enforce any breach of the rules."

Their lawyers also expected to claim their arguments are covered by parliamentary privilege, which traditionally protects them from being sued for what they say in the House of Commons.

The prosecutor addressed the issue of parliamentary privilege when he announced the decision to press charges.

"We have considered that question and concluded that applicability and extent of any parliamentary privilege claimed should be tested in court," he said.

Inquiry

A Labor MP, Paul Flynn, appealed to his fellow colleagues to ignore the lawyers' arguments about parliamentary privilege.

Flynn said it was never intended to give politicians "immunity" from criminal prosecution. He said it would "deepen and prolong" the expenses scandal which has gripped Westminster.

"There may be a technical argument about this, but it is one that will be treated with contempt by the majority of the people of this country," he told BBC.

"Already they feel cynicism about the politicians, saying there's one for the MPs and one for the rest of us," he added.

While Villar's case does not involve dishonest claims of expenses, the Senate report also involves an ethical issue, based on a Senate investigation of the charges brought by his estranged wife Madrigal.

The criminal charges against the MPs stemmed from investigations for nine months of their claims by the parliamentary oversight bodies.

Defiant

Villar's real estate transactions were also investigated by his peers, as the claims of the expenses of the MPs were investigated and audited again by their peers.

One difference is that Villar does not face criminal charges over his transactions. Still, her future is subject to a debate raised against peers who find him guilty of unethical conduct.

Villar bypassed the hearings on the case and refused to face colleagues instead of how to defend himself.

He said he was not expecting a fair deal from the majority senators who signed the report because they were "determined to convict."

The issue of parliamentary privilege has not been raised in the C-5 case.

Alleged Villar, spokesman's mediator, have argued that he, as a senator, cannot be forced to appear at the committee hearings and to accept the report's decision seeking his senate.

Preview of Villar's attitude

His defiance gives a preview of an attitude that Villar is above censure and accountability for his actions connected to his congressional services to push the C-5 project.

The project is covered by appropriations in which he is the author during its budgetary hearings as member of Congress.

There's no way that he will step down or suspend his campaign for the presidency while a boycott of his affair is preventing the Senate from resuming its session here.

The senator's unwillingness to this regard is underwriting on the committee report. Villar is a law unto himself and above the rules of the Senate on disciplinary actions for breach of the rules.

There are no party sanctions to bar him from election activity until he is cleared by the Senate, simply because he is president of the Nacionalista Party.

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Molmisores
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

Kings dethrone Tropang Texters from 0-2 hole

ALI Peak of Talk 'N Text loses possession under pressure from Ginebra's Cabby Cruz (left) and Ronald Tubid

By Cedrill P. Tejon

RAJAHMUNDRY GINEBRA WATCHED TALK 'N Text stalk out of Game 4 Friday. Last night, the Kings savored the Texters out of the tournament.

JC Intal delivered the most solid performances of his career and the Kings played with steely resolve in the stretch to eliminate the defending champions Texters, 111-100, late night to the dismaying Game 5 of the KFC-PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Ginebra mastered finishes yet in the closing minutes to hold off Talk 'N Text's repeated rallies and oust the Texters, 3-2, in their best-of-five quarterfinal showdown.

"I couldn't imagine us losing to Game 5, so there's no other explanation I can find here," Ginebra coach Jong Uichico.

"The Lord blessed us with this quarterfinal victory. It had nothing to do with me. It's an awesome feeling that we made it through to the semifinals despite all that's happened."

The Kings also became the first team in league history to come back from a 0-2 hole in a best-of-five series.

The Kings advance to face the Alaska team in the semifinals. The other half of the semifinal pairing will have San Miguel Beermen going up against Purefoods, which advanced by eliminating Barangay Ginebra in the first game earlier.

Talk 'N Text's elimination means that there would still be no back-to-back Philippine Cup champion. Texters had been none in the past 20 seasons of the league.

Intal finished with 28 points, 10 rebounds and three blocks as the Gin Kings provided a glorious ending to a series that will be remembered more for the 2000 champions Tropang Texters' walkout in Game 4.

That protest action was triggered by the Regrets Intal 2 called on Hamilcar de Ocampo.

Much of the pre-game talk surrounded on whether or not the Tropang Texters would show up following the decision of the league to uphold the foul call on De Ocampo, who was suspended for Game 5.

The Texters did show up just a few minutes before the game. The Texters held a meeting first at the Mercurio Gym, before proceeding to the Araneta Coliseum in vbus.

A couple of fans were seen handing out sticker notes to the Texters as they entered the arena. Supporters also wore yellow T-shirts bearing the words "Be Fair," perhaps alluding to the officiating which has been the subject of complaints by Talk 'N Text.

The scores:

Ginebra Gems

GINEBRA (111)— Intal 28, Tubid 15, Mark 10, Wilson 14, Cruz 11, Villanueva 10, Ildefonso 9, Ingles 5, Hatfield-Intal 2, Espinosa 0

TALK N TEXT (100)— Castelo 21, Castro 10, Alapag 15, Dillinger 17, Pinto 8, Cortez 8, Mendoza 5, De Ocampo 7, Asoro 0

Quarters: 30-27, 51-49, 86-78, 111-100

Garrido shines for Hope five

HOPE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL (8-1) fared on free-throwing Jeremy Gavriele to beat Univ High School, 54-43, in their Foreign-Hatters Manila Young Guns Basketball Association (MHTGBA) quarterfinal duel at the Chiong Kai Shek gym in Tondo over the weekend.

Gavriele scored 19 of his team-high 24 points in the final period while also grabbing five rebounds, issuing four assists and making three steals to earn the Foreign Duffers Group Player of the Week honors.

Gavriele thus became the second Hope player to win the award after fellow freshmate and rookie Jessie Bertosa, who won last week after guiding their squad to two consecutive wins.

"One of the big reasons why we're doing well is the all-around performance of Gavriele," said Hope team manager Bernard Yang.

FREE ADMISSION!
Bigger. Bolder.
NEGOSYO babae TAGUMPAY KA NG bayan
Women's Entrepreneurship Summit
March 8, 2010 • World Trade Center
Bigger negosyo seminars and exhibits!
Brighter tips on health and wellness!
Better entertainment and games with celebrities!
Bolder business ideas and advice from experts!
We welcome exhibitors (end-business and suppliers) and sponsors from different industries! Health and wellness, beauty, fashion, food and restaurants, technology, direct-selling, franchising, manufacturing, community-based enterprises, schools, and more! Interested parties may call Ideal Events at 431-3694 or GoNegosyo at 637-9229. Visit www.gonegosyo.net for more details.
Presented by
President's Social Fund
In cooperation with
SMART NOKIA
www.gonegosyo.net gonegosyo.multiply.com PCE 637-9229 PCW 735-8509

The Art of Power Living. Perfected.

GREENBELT MADISON

At Greenbelt Madison, all the power you enjoy in the Makati CBD is multiplied many times over. Enhancing the way you live. And expanding your everyday experiences.

Here, your rightful place is at the top, where all the finest luxuries come together. Live in high gear in a fully furnished executive studio or two-bedroom suite. Get the daily essentials at the ground-level retail row. And discover a variety of diversions at the seventh-level plaza deck. With a swimming pool complex, gym, children's playground and landscaped sitting areas, it's easy to let go of the day's excesses and immerse yourself in relaxing rejuvenation.

With the energy and excitement of the city right at your doorstep, enjoy every privilege to be more. To do more. Play in the big league at the heart of business. And rendezvous with trendsetters, style-makers and art connoisseurs in the chic leisure centers of Greenbelt.

Take on the world at Greenbelt Madison. And find every red carpet rolled out in welcome.

Choose from executive studios or two-bedroom suites fully furnished with home appliances and living and dining/bedroom sets.

FULLY FURNISHED UNITS
FOR AS LOW AS ₱12,000.- /MONTH
NO DOWN PAYMENT

Voted Best Managed Asian Company by Finance Asia in 2009

Developer:
MEGAWORLD CORPORATION

Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

DID YOU KNOW

In 2007, 11 percent of the household population in Manila were aged 20 to 24 years old. This was the largest age group, followed by persons 4 years and 15 to 19 years (10.4 percent each).
Cyril L. Bonalaan, Inquirer Research

Big fire in Caloocan City leaves 1,000 families homeless

SCORES OF PEOPLE IN Caloocan City lost their homes in a huge fire that raged through a slum area for nearly nine hours from Saturday evening to Sunday morning, fire authorities said.

Almost 500 shanties were gutted and more than 1,000 families were displaced in the blaze that struck the Philippine National Railways compound on Asuncion Road, officials said.

Damage to property reached at least P5 million but investigators later said this was only a conservative estimate and that the actual losses could run to much more. Although there were reports of minor injuries, no one was seriously hurt.

The fire started at about 6:25 p.m. in the house of Virgilio Corrales, a report by SFO4 Ready Hernandez and BFO1 Edwin Buenaventura said.

The arson investigators said the fire could have been sparked by a burning electrical wire that came into contact with the rubber hose of a liquefied petroleum gas tank.

Reaching the ground alarm at the highest, alert level during emergencies, the fire spread quickly through the scores of structures made of mostly light and combustible materials.

The fire was put out at about 1 a.m. and displaced families took shelter on the sidewalks and roads left as they waited for city officials to set up temporary evacuation centers. *DJ Yap*

Optometrist, cop arrested in drug bust

A POLICE OFFICER AND AN OPTOMETRIST were arrested in a drug bust on Saturday.

PO3 Jeffrey Pizarro of the Quezon City Police District's Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force Group identified the two as Chief Insp. Frederick Cabreosing, 33, a nurse assigned to the Philippine National Police Health Service Office, and Catherine Oncol, 49, an optometrist.

Oncol's husband, Petronilo, 49, managed to evade the arresting officers.

Pizarro said Cabreosing and Catherine were arrested in the latter's house on Ilaya Street, Barangay Magsaysay, Quezon City. Seized from them were two sachets of methamphetamine hydrochloride, also known as shabu, and drug paraphernalia.

The police conducted the operation after receiving a tip that illegal drugs were being sold in the area.

Catherine was arrested first after she sold the drugs to an undercover policeman. Cabreosing was inside her house when she was apprehended.

The police said both would be charged with possession of illegal drugs. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

3 alleged illegal recruiters fall

THREE SUSPECTED ILLEGAL RECRUITERS who conducted their business inside the Mercury Square Police and Wildlife Center in Quezon City were arrested on Friday afternoon in an entrapment operation.

Supt. Silverio Bolinao, head of the Quezon City Police District's Intelligence and Operations, said Rosalinda Almendrala, 47; Rosita Tenazas, 39; and Reynaldo Arreges Jr., 33, were arrested based on the complaints of 11 of their alleged victims.

An investigation showed the three had recruited the victims to work in farms in Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

The victims said they were asked to pay P150,000 each—P15,000 as processing fee and a P135,000 fee for health tests.

Bolinao said an undercover police pretended to be an applicant and joined the "business meeting" inside the park that led to the arrest of the alleged illegal recruiters. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Shell Fuels

Congratulations sa mga nanalo ngayong bagong taon mula sa Shell.

1st Preliminary Draw Winners:

VISAYAS

₱5,000 Super 80s

Arsenio Antigua Jr. | Ana Marie Asensio | Angelo Sosa | Anthony Prado
Bienvenido Arseno | Carlos Castillo | Cherie Hermilla | Conchita Go
Cristina Cardeo II | Cecilia Cortez | Cresilo Pino | Jerome Mateo Abaya
Diane Augusto | Dominic Sison | Eleazar Lynette | Elizabeth Baguion
Elizabeth Pino | Emmanuel Abatayo | Fernando Cabling | Freda Angel
Frederick Cache | Fernando Fondevilla | Jacinto Duque Jr. | Jocelyn Mandin
Jonathan Olivares | Jose Ampayan | Jonathan Antonette Jr. | Lilia Fang
Lorenzo Cabral | Joseph Cabrera | Maria Morales | Marianito Mercado
Rodney Alvo | Richard Chua | Ria Nicka | Reynaldo Arreges Jr.
Sixto Duque | Roberto Chua | Roberto Nava Jr. | Soledad Vidal
Teresita Ayala | Rolan Mendiola Sia | Ruel Alcaraz | Teresita Ong
Wilsalvio Abella | Sarlo Ramoran | Teresita Cabador | Victorio Tiro
| Zarah Jingjoron | |

₱3,000 Dept. Store 80s

Allen Arriola | Carlito Bartolaque | Ana Rose Ilyana | Diadra Montejo
Diane Peluda | Dennis Bonal | Francisco Rivera | Dionisio Cuenca
Fernando Gudmalin | Gilbert Gonzalvo | Gilbert Ogerimo | Fiona Palomares
Fiona Tupaz | Nikki Erting | Ramoncito Castillo | Rose Bagayoro
Ronnie Dumas | Rudy Bellaza | |

Electric Oven

Dapidar Salazar | Jesus Egodinga | Jail Alcaraz | Jacinto Ruiz
Josie Bautista | Leonel Abad | Mrs. Kristine Arsenio | Michael Mesiona
Nestor Mesa | Reyna Bellaza | Ronald Villanueva | Rodel Villanueva

Deep Fryer

Anthony Peralvo | Doris Legaspi | Flor Dumlao | Christopher Jubay
Jaime Cabral | Kenneth Reyes | Hermann Carlos | Jessie Tan
Raymond Jimeno | Ramon Nebres | Roberto Rendo | Teddy Hayad

BBQ Grill

Arthur Arca | Eleanor Jamolin | Esmeraldo Cabanayan | Ferdinand Montemayor
Clemente Albarico | Jessy Abad | Julie Bhattacharjee | Jhanty Sison
Mayte Kidd | Rodolfo Evora | Nestor Rabanillo | Ray Simando

Turbo Broiler

Aimee Bueno | Arnel Pizzaras Jr. | Edgar Bandoven | Edgar Tapawan
Fernando de Jesus | Lorenz Alcantara | Erik Conde Jr. | Jhanty Cuyag
Hilton Mae Arellano | Rodolfo Rodriguez | Jeff Cuesta | Michael Cuesta

Microwave Oven

Charito Pino | Cato Cinco | Basilio Fernando | Edgar Adobas
Joe Gloton | Jovie Pelayre | Leonel Tio | Lyndon Ruiz
Lorenzo Nava | Mario Rosario | Marlene Dizon | Nilda Cabanes

Bicycle

Armando dela Pena | Ignacio Cervantes | Julio Bongon | Jose Winston Pobre
Rapunzel Abagatal | Ryan Ibaba | |

32-36cm Colored TV

Arlyn Rodrigo | Felix Abanilla | Lay Celestino Rosario | |
Marites Magno | Renato Bustamante Jr. | Victor Dagondon Jr. | |

MINDANAO

₱5,000 Super 80s

Alberto Abejo | Alex Alabadalabo | Alfredo Mangubat Jr. | Alfonso Dumpalan
Bobbit Cuadra | Lucio Hermogen | Cesar Bongat | Charlie Abadilla
Diana Faye Braga | Edmundo Bernal | Diego Tamayo | Dionisio Quiao
Edwin Flores Jr. | Emmanuel Ramos | Eli Gallardo | Francisco Augustus Jr.
George Tan | Fernando Cabrera | Fernando Cabrera | Gilbert Sosa
Hazelle Pontiveros | Jaime Louise Sumagang | Jerry Tumbo | Jerwin Hermoso
Jolmore Cabrera | Jonathan Cabrera | Jonathan Sumagang | Jesus-ong Dedoble
Jose Aquino Jr. | Joseph Cuadra | Jovie Abadilla | Lamuel Dungalo
Leonardo Rivello Jr. | Mario Hermano | Mary Ann Mirandilla | Nino Cuyong
Nilo Sosa | Orencio Canoll | Ramon Cabrera | Ramon Ong
Raymundo Sebastian | Regie Mendoza | Renato Cabling | Rodolfo Sumagangan
Rod Gonzales | Sonia Delumpines | Ronnie Mariano | Rommy Dedoble
Tomas Urbanozada | Ruth Manlapaz | Ryan Soriano | Vivinia Cabling
Tonny Tan | Vivek Awang | | |

₱3,000 Dept. Store 80s

Ann Jugene | Angelito Pornan | Constancio Calabocle | Dynsky Lucido
Dahlgin Ecleno | Arlo Daniel Capalac | Gilberto Benitez | Gina Barrios
Kenneth Dizon | Marilyn Cabanding | Hiyer Alcaraz | Rose Salvacion
Rizalde Dimaandal | Rogelio Dimaandalyan | Ryan Calderon | Zenaida Jara
Tony Avelo | Vidal Lo | | |

Electric Oven

Allen Gardoce | Antonio Gasco | Archimedes Flores | Faith Sevilla
George Nunez | Dino Cadenas | Hiram Pollad | Karin Ibrahim
Mundo Lelig | Randy Arcilla | Rolando Peñaloza | Teresita Jabonete

Deep Fryer

Alberto Dico | Arnold Polgo | Dennis Nava | Dante Mesias
Dante Sumagang | Brad Evelyn Quinones | Geoffrey Arbis | Milagros Ong
Jerry Adlao | Ramon Balcombalo | Romeo Padilla | Wilfredo Tana Jr.

BBQ Grill

Aaron Abello | Alex Abejuro | Alan Ring | Allan Cantaneros
Bobbit Cuadra | Eduardo Tabuso | Gloria Maria Sumagang | Jesus Longlon
Mardonempe Mahagay | Paul Zamoranos | Rolando Mesias | Rosauro Pare

Turbo Broiler

Allan Bagadiong | Arlyn Quintero | Emie Tampoong | Gilbert Viñalon
Bobbit Mardonempe | Jango Cabanes | Jesus Abad | Hermon-ong
Ching Mendoza | Renjo Ochoneda | R. Obedencio | Sixto

Microwave Oven

Eduardo Bolondres | Ramie Jaime | Dennis Aquino | |
Ellen Tabal | Gerald Lee Abuso | John Villanueva | |
Marites Salido | Reynaldo Mangubat | Pedro Sagonsagon | |
Renato Torres | | Richard Mirasol | |

Bicycle

Bradley Jose | Cecilio Algoso | Cleto Pontevar | |
Efren Cabling | Jeomar Villagan | Rudy Hermida | |

32-36cm Colored TV

Lorraine Andres | Alonzo dela Rama | Ronnie Maldelon | |
Rob Camagon | Fidel Dimalaporo | Wilfredo Corsame | |

All winners will be notified via registered mail and contact details indicated in the raffle coupon from period is from January 7 to March 31, 2012. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2012, Series of 2009.

Get instant satisfaction drop!

METRO Citizen's call

0918-8985566

Pothole-riddled street

THERE are a lot of potholes filled with water on Muralla(sic) corner Luzon Streets in Manila. The same is also true of Benavidez Street in front of Hope Christian High School.

Sr. Lily Fe, rvi , Manila

Access road needed

AFTER MRT, MMDA Chair Oscar Inocentes, "Please proceed with the proposal to construct an access road to C-5 which will also lead to Tomas Bridge to Marikina City. This will be a good road that will safely transport people from Marikina to Quezon City instead of the dangerous zigzag road in Katipunan(sic) mainly accidents have been done.

Nancy, 32, Quezon City

Two lanes less for vehicles

AFAR makes from the corner of Commonwealth and Tandang Sora Avenue, drivers of passenger jeepneys have set up a terminal which has taken over two lanes. Will the MMDA please coordinate with the city government to improve traffic flow a little bit?

Bill, 44, Quezon City

Vendors take over street

ABSAN AVENUE na lang pa talaga sila sa Traffic is heavy every day on Quirino Highway, Malaria, Caloocan City. Sinasakop na po ng mga vendors ang halos lahat ng mga kalsada pa rainan sila sa pero dito naman (Vendors have taken over the street where there is a nearby police station).

Roberto Mendez, 62, Caloocan

City hall charging parking fee

MAY BAYARING po po ng parking fee sa Cubao now is charging parking fees at the Lia Pilan City Hall. Mayor Aguilar, may permiso da ka na cryo (does this have your approval)?

Help, All Can Relax

Discourteous workers

IF MAYOR Belmonte wishes to improving services at the Quezon City Hall, he should welcome texts from the public on frontline employees who are sarkastic or discourteous or not smiling. What is his cell phone number?

Tess Bayot, 68, Fairview, Quezon City

Not a waste of money

CONTRARY to what Ms. Cely King says in the Jan. 26 issue of Metro's Citizen's Call, our pedestrian underpass project between the Quezon Memorial Circle (QMC) and Philippine Coconut Authority offices is not a waste of money. Months after we opened the first underpass on Elliptical Road which links CE hall to QMC, we observed that more and more people were going to QMC. We ... are encouraging people from all walks of life to go to QMC or Elliptical via the underpass into a scenic green park. And building the underpass was the law in one way to encourage them. Is that a waste of money?

Gregorio T. Balmeta, QC Public Affairs and Information Services Office

No prior notice

MY NEJAZ cut off the water supply in Barangay 443 Zone 44-A in Sampaloc, Manila close to midnight on Feb. 2 without informing residents. Is this their new policy?

Renato Carmona, Sampaloc, Manila

COMMUTER'S COMPLAINT

Ricardo dela Torre, 64, of Caloocan City writes: "MMDA, please do something. It's so hard for commuters to go to the LRT Monumento station because the sidewalks are filled with vendors."

(MY CAMERA PHONE)

METRO BRIEFS

Mandaluyong to reroute traffic on Tuesday

TRAFFIC will be rerouted on the main road arteries of Mandaluyong City tomorrow as the city begins its week-long celebration of its 66th Liberation Day. The stretch of Kalentong Street in Aglipay-Lanuza Drive Boulevard will be closed to vehicles between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., while Mayor Ondoy Ong, the road around city hall shall be closed from 1 p.m. to midnight. A parade featuring floats built by the local government and the business community—with mentions on the city streets and converge at city hall where a program shall be held. "We city will honor its top 10 taxpayers, as well as six "Gilang Mandaluyong," in the fields of governance, business, education, arts and culture, sports and journalism. At 8 a.m. on Monday, Mayor Ondoy Ong will deliver his State of the City Address before the city council at the Mandaluyong gymnasium. Mandaluyong's Liberation Day marks its emancipation from Japanese forces on Feb. 8, 1945, and coincides with the 15th anniversary of its cityhood on Feb. 9, 1994. Motorists from Pasig bound for Manila, Kalentong or San Juan City should take Shaw Boulevard, turn right on Meyers or Torres Street and turn left on Ansello, right on Hosmer, then take Ruby to Kalentong. Or they may take Ortigas Avenue straight ahead to San Juan City, or Shaw Boulevard, turn right on Somerville, then left on Ruby and Kalentong. All vehicles from San Juan City bound for Makati or Pasay should take Ortigas Avenue going to Cbba. For vehicles from Makati bound for San Juan or Manila: From Makati-Mandaluyong Bridge, take left to Coronado Street then to Pantaleon then to Barangka Drive, or from Barangka Drive right to Boni Avenue then take Edsa to Ortigas Avenue going to San Juan. They may also take Edsa. All vehicles from Manila bound for Pasig or Edsa should take N. Domingo Street, San Juan City to Ortigas Avenue, or take Shaw Boulevard going to Pasay City. All vehicles from Sta. Ana bound for Cainta or at Boni Avenue should take Castañeda Street then go straight ahead to J. P. Rizal Commando then left on Pantaleon and left on Barangka Drive through Boni Avenue. From 12 noon, Hag Street shall be one-way going to Kalentong only.

EJ Tan

Free medical services for EPD cops

BECAUSE a lawmaker's life is filled with literal aches and pains, a foundation has taken it upon itself to provide members of the Eastern Police District (EPD) and their dependents with free medical and dental services. On Friday, the Globe Kalinga Foundation set up booths offering free medical, dental and optometry consultation, as well as reflexology and other forms of therapy, at the EPD headquarters in Pasig City. "It's also our duty to always be fit and healthy, and we're very grateful to Globe Kalinga for this occasion. As you know, not all of our policemen have access to good health services," EPD director Chief Supt. Reinard Morosa said. The day-long medical and dental mission conducted by the group headed by Marikina Councilor Marissen Hernandez said the target of serving 1,500 people. no added.

EJ Tan

Man's body fished out of river

THE BODY of a cephalopedian from Pangasinan was found in a creek in Manila yesterday morning. Homicide probers said they were still trying to determine how Alberto Aquino, 28, of Dampay Bautista in Pangasinan, ended up in the water. Case investigator SPO2 Paul Bonnie Jaime said that the body was fished out of the river at around 8:15 a.m. yesterday near the Reina de Regenio Bridge in Morondo after it was found by barangay watchman Bonifacio Sarkosidad. No external injuries were found on the victim.

Jeannette I. Andrade

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in partnership with Globe

presents the first-ever Inquirer Presidential Debate

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 1st EDITION

THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

FEBRUARY 8, 2010 | 10 AM | UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES - DILIMAN

In cooperation with

DOORS OPEN AT 8A.M. NO TICKET, NO ENTRY

WORLD BRIEFS

Haitian lawyer for jailed US missionaries fired

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti—The Haitian lawyer for 10 US Baptists charged with child kidnapping tried to bribe the missionaries' way out of jail and has been fired, the lawyer who hired him said Saturday night. The Haitian lawyer, Edwin Coq, denied the allegations. He said the $800,000 he requested from the American families was his fee. AP

Observers: Loser in Ukraine election might not concede

KIEV, Ukraine—The loser in Ukraine's presidential runoff election probably won't concede defeat and may turn to court battles or street protests, observers said on both campaigns accused each other of possible vote fraud. Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko or Viktor Yanukovych polled 10 percentage points ahead of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko in the first round of voting on Jan. 17. Most analysts say the final vote on Sunday will be closer and people should expect both sides to resort to legal maneuvering and demonstrations if defeat looms. "If Tymoshenko begins to feel he is losing, then he will initiate a conflict to derail the elections. Likewise, if Tymoshenko will start losing, then she will be ready to speak in conflict," said Vladimir Fesenko, director of Penta Center for Applied Political Research. AP

Jury: Bayer must pay $1.5M to US rice farmers

ST. LOUIS—A federal court jury has ordered the German conglomerate Bayer CropScience to pay $1.5 million to farmers in Arkansas and Mississippi whose rice seed was contaminated with a genetically altered strain. Friday's verdict was the second against Bayer CropScience for losses sustained by farmers when an experimental variety of rice that the company was testing infiltrated crops. AP

NY police manipulated crime data, retired officials say

NEW YORK—Most Black and Latino New York Police Department captains and higher-ranking officials said in a survey that the takeout pressure to produce annual crime reductions led some supervisors and precinct commanders to manipulate crime statistics, according to two criminologists studying the department. NYT

Teenage Spanish matador kills 6 bulls in 1 afternoon

CACERES, SPAIN—A 19-YEAR-old Spanish matador has killed six bulls in one afternoon, pulling off a feat normally attempted only by seasoned veterans and winning applause for his skill—rare from animals he had just slain.

Juan Miguel Sanchez Adame, who rarely died from a local fighting in Mexico in 2007, studied fervently and secured to a friendly bureaucrat, crossed after a pregnant aunt took about two and a half hours to slaughter.

A mid-and-slender boy-slayer already remarkably adorable for his age, he dressed off his stuff in an entire rolled Plaza for de los Hombres, or Time of the Matyrs.

The bullfighter, who goes by the stage name of Juan Miguel, turned in his best performance with bull No. 5, a bulking black specimen that weighed 633 kilograms.

After skillful cape-work, he finished off the bull with a single thrust-lunge from his sword, slicing it into a spot where it severed the beast's spinal chord. With the rest of the bulls he needed several more.

This is considered too many, said Juan Miguel, who weighed frustration with shot post of his work, although he felt his effort was a success overall and said he was never scared.

"I thought out the best to myself that I could," he told The Associated Press. "It was a good afternoon of bullfighting, and people were not bored."

For the fifth bull, he was seated of the animal's several ears, one of the bullfighting world's prizes for a job well done. He took a slow victory lap around the ring, showing the organs to the crowd.

Minutes before he stepped into the ring, Juan Miguel hugged his father Antonio, a former bullfighter, and in a powerfully emotional scene, they both cried.

Wearing a sparkling white suit of lights with gold sequins that twinkled in the late afternoon sun, the young matador was greeted by a cheering crowd of 3,000 near bullring in Caceres, in Spain's southwest Extremadura region.

The average age for matadors in Spain is 22 to 30. AP

TOSHIBA
Leading Innovation >>>

Windows®. Life without Walls™.
Toshiba recommends Windows 7.

25 YEARS

PORTÉGÉ T110-P110/R
P3,082.50

PORTÉGÉ M900-S223/UP
P4,999.17

PORTÉGÉ T130-P131/R
P3,408.17

P2,249.17

Satellite L310-P4210
P2,865.83

800-6525
www.pc.toshiba-asia.com

Talk 2 Toshiba

beyond freedom

NEW intel CORE
Faster. Smarter.

REDFOX

Windows®. Life without limits™.
REDFOX recommends Windows® 7

Get proven performance with the Intel® Core™ 2 Duo processor, Intel's original performance processor

Introducing the new

WizBOOK RAZOR X Series

Windows 7

XR116

XR133

Slim and light: with a one inch profile. Stay on the go without worries with the XR133 thanks to a magnesium alloy frame that weighs under 2kg.

HDMI

VISIT YOUR NEAREST DEALER NOW!

Libo Lawrence S. Checo

The WORLD

Many US jobless give up looking for work

MANY JOBLESS PEOPLE HAVE REACHED A conclusion that captures the depth of the unemployment crisis: Looking for a job is a waste of time.

The economy is growing. Yet it's creating few jobs. That's why in the past eight months, 1.2 million people stopped looking for jobs and left the labor market.

Barbara Bishop sat down at her kitchen table in suburban Atlanta last month and researched stocks. Her decision came seven months after she quit a PR job that seemed about to be axed. Sending out resumes got her nowhere. So Bishop, an avid investor, decided to put her skills and time to work by becoming a day trader.

"I don't want to outsource," she said of the job hunt. "It's become very discouraging."

The nation's unemployment rate is 9.7 percent. But so many jobless people have quit looking that if they're combined with the numbers of part-time workers who'd prefer to work full-time, the so-called "underemployment" rate is 16.5 percent.

Their subdued numbers show that even though the economy is growing, the job market is stagnant. Employers remain reluctant to hire.

The exodus did halt in January, when a net total of 111,000 people re-entered the job market. But 661,000 had left in December. And the overall trend since spring has been people leaving the workforce.

"It's very unusual," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com. "At this point in the business cycle, we should be seeing some sort of labor force growth. Layoffs have abated, but there really has been no pickup in hiring."

Job creation was stronger early in previous recoveries. And jobless people stopped by streaming back into the labor force. Even before the 1990-1991 and 2001 recessions ended, for instance, more people entered than left the job market, according to an analysis by Moody's Economy.com. The workforce did shrink after the current 1981-1982 recession ended—but not as severely as it has this time, the analysis shows.

Some workers are concluding it's more practical to return to school, start a business or care for their kids at home until the job market improves. In some cases, it even makes financial sense to stop looking for work.

Jennifer McDonald, for example, doubted she could help her family enough by sending home those by hunting for jobs that don't seem to exist now her home in Hendersonville, Pennsylvania. Laid off as a receptionist a year ago, McDonald spent months searching for work as a receptionist or a data clerk.

She and her husband ultimately decided that with two kids, her staying at home made more sense. It would save roughly $1,000 a week on child-care costs, along with gas money and time shuttling the kids. The savings would help smooth her husband's income from an auto-body shop.

Besides, there were no jobs anyway.

"If you're just sitting there working on the computer all day, not getting paid to do it, it's not very profitable," she said.

Those leaving the workforce have been hit on down by the competition the few jobs. A record 6.4 million unemployed Americans, on average, are vying for each job opening, according to the most recent Labor Department data. That's up from 1.7 million jobless people per opening in December 2007, when the recession began. And a record 6.5 million people have been jobless for at least six months.

Even if the economy continues growing this year, it would likely recover many of the 8.4 million net jobs that vanished in the recession. Economists say the nation would be fortunate to get back 1.5 million of those jobs this year.

Part of the problem is that outsized growth in the real estate and construction industries disappeared when the housing bubble burst. Many of those jobs are gone for good. AP

Ford

IGNITION 2010

0% INTEREST or ALL-IN LOW DOWNPAYMENT

Start the year in the right direction with these generous purchase options from Ford.

EASY DEAL OPTIONS!	Focus		Escape	Ranger	Everest
Option 1 0% interest	24mos 50% DP	12mos 40% DP	18mos 40% DP	12mos 50% DP	12mos 40% DP
Option 2 ALL-IN Low DP	159K ALL-IN	129K ALL-IN	149K ALL-IN	169K ALL-IN	189K ALL-IN

Easy check payment by:

Ford

Make Every Day Exciting

FordLoans.ph

SPORTS
Editor Tobbinic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

WHAT'S INSIDE
Cavs make it 11 straight /A32

Giants reach semis

Oust Rain or Shine E-Painters, face SMB next

By Cedelf F. Tupas

JAMES YAP ROSE OUT OF HIS SLUMP WHEN IT MATTERED, LIFTING PUREFOODS TO A 95-85 triumph over Rain or Shine and a semifinal seat last night in the KFC-PBA Philippine Cup at the jampacked Araneta Coliseum.

Given more room to operate, Yap, the 2006 Most Valuable Player, scattered 20 points, including 12 in a pivotal third period spurt for the Tender Juicy Giants, who avenged a three-game semifinal duel with the fast-lifted Hotshots starting Wednesday.

"Our team just showed up with a bigger heart today" said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio, whose squad is 6-2 against the Hotshots in the conference. "It's just a great relief to finally battle Rainor Shine."

Yap averaged just 12.5 points and missed all

(SEE PAGE A-30)

SMALL MAN, BIG MAN Purefoods superstar forward James Yap rises into a defensive trap laid by center Jay-R Reyes and Ryan Arana of Rain or Shine in the fourth quarter of last night's game at the Araneta Coliseum. The Tender Juicy Giants rode on Yap's excellent outing to finally eliminate the Elasto Painters in the deciding game of their quarterfinal series at the jampacked arena. (The second-game story is on A29.)

Get The Best Inside Your Car!
DASHIELD
THINKING ABOUT HAIR RESTORATION?
Have it done by the Doctor who does the most.
AFTER
BEFORE
GOODBYE RUST!
GO GL
0922-8393712
930-0971 • 939-3710
CENTRO
MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
L.A. CAR ACCESSORIES & TINT ROOM
NOW OPEN!
TINT ROOM
www.LAcaraccessories.com

The scores

Make the right move this year
Choose Wisely
X-TRAIL
STARTS AT P1,010,000
GRAND LIVINA
P160,000 DOWNPAYMENT
SENTRA
STARTS AT P555,000
FREE Navigation System
Shopping GC's
NISSAN MOTOR PHILIPPINES, INC.

RP pool aces rip Russia

Seal championship showdown with tough Britons

NTRP VETERANS RONNIE ALCANO and Lee Van Corben Rotheroe delivered victories, the Philippines came from behind to pummel Russia, 6-1, Saturday and reach the finals of the World Team Pool Cup Championship in Hanover, Germany.

Making up for his loss in the scotch doubles 8-ball with Shalim Marufu, Alcano, the 2006 world 9-ball champion, dominated Ruslan Chinakhov, 7-1, in the 10-ball match to secure the victory for the heavily favored Filipinos, who averaged a title showdown with equally star-studded Britain.

Dominic, a living Buddist in the 2009 World 10-Ball Championship in Manila, overcame Frances Peachey, 6-4, in their 9-ball duel, before Antonio Lining downed Egor Phibleis, 6-4, to put the Philippines on the brink of victory.

Efrenio Alcanco and former world No. 1 Dennis Orcollo tied the match with a 6-4 win in the second 8-ball scotch doubles.

Orcollo was actually leading 2-0 against Konstantin Stepanov in the second 10-ball game of the later Alcano swapped up the triumph for the Filipinos, whom other wins came against England 8-1 (4-0), Czech Republic (4-2), Norway (6-2), Poland (4-2) and Russia (7-1).

Britain, led by former world champion Darren Appleton, turned back a fighting Greece squad, 4-2, in the other semifinal of the 64-nation tournament, which offers $100,000 to the champion squad.

The explosive post-match-up between Alcano and Rhando initially failed to deliver for the PP team in the first 8-ball scotch doubles match.

Paying paraphrasing "you ain't gonna see Marfori on 6-ball scotch doubles [The defeat Rhodes and I took in the 8-ball was like a wake-up call]," Alcano, a former United States Open finalist, said in a long distance call to his longtime benefactor and Bagay Promotions head Perry Mendoza.

Emily P. Rojas

AP TEAM: Ambient Ronnie Alcano (on) his shot against Russia's Ruslan Chinakhov in their crucial 10-ball match up.

2 tennis stars, top bowler in PSC's elite pool

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION HAS NAMED tennis players Cecil Mamiit and Treat Huey and bowler Biboy Rivera as the three newest members of its elite athletes' pool for the Guangzhou Asian Games in November.

The three were chosen based on the PSC's criteria of performances closest to medal-place finish in the 2006 Doha Asiad and in accordance with their national sports associations.

Mamiit, Huey and Rivera will each receive a monthly stipend of P20,000, apart from the allowance following the Games' conclusion next month.

The two tennis aces powered the Philippines back to Group 1 in the Davis Cup and were part of the crews, one men's team, in the recent Southeast Asian Games, where Mamiit won the singles gold for the third straight time.

MAMIIT

HUEY

RIVERA

Rivera, the 2009 World Masters champion, was also on the strength of his international performances last year, including a championship and a runner-up finish in other tournaments in Dubai.

The PSC is also expected to name to the elite pool teams long jump queen Marestella Torres and SEA Games champions Annie Alforda (women's bowling), Miguel Molina (swimming) and taekwondo jin Mona Aubrey de Rivera (taekwondo).

PSC chair Ritchie Angping, however, said the agency has yet to discuss with the NSAs the training programs for their respective athletes.

Angping earlier announced that the agency would spend as much as P200 million for the training and competition of the top athletes here and abroad and that the elite pool could include 30 athletes.

"The PSC will start spending more on these athletes," said Angping.

But there's no guarantee that the athletes in the PSC's pool will be chosen by the Philippine Olympic Committee, which has the authority to send them to competitions being the umbrella organization of NSAs.

POC spokesperson Joey Romasanta, also the Guangzhou Asiad chief of mission, said only athletes with fighting chances of winning medals will be given the green light to compete in the quadrennial Games.

Razon, ICTSI back golf on all fronts

PORT MANAGER RICKY RAZON, whose passion for golf paved the way for the arrivals of the local professional through the Philippine Golf Tour, has reaffirmed his commitment to foster amateur golf through the ICTSI Tour.

The chair and CEO of International Container Terminal Services, Inc. is also supporting the Gerlie Angeles Open, under Team Mayonesa, which hosts talented players of all ages, including top national champion Mark Hernando, Gaspell Amateur titlist Rommel Abella and former national team mainstay Jerson Balanban.

The first amateur event, however, for a separate program under Razon's corporate coaches.

The ICTSI Golf Challenge will put for accept it with the ICTSI-TCC team under Lopez, who were into the training of the men's and ladies teams, headed by SEA Games gold medalist Chito Chiu, the newly crowned Southeast Locker winner Debbi Adlawan and reigning Philippine Ladies Amateur champion Cyne Rodriguez.

And recently, Razon and ICTSI also decided to sponsor the junior golf program starting this year through the ICTSI-Angeli Cleto under Luigi Tabuena.

Razon's move widened his involvement in golf, where he is also the patron of the full-calendar professional circuit.

"I always believe Filipino golfers have the talent and skills to make it in the world stage," said Razon. "It's just a matter of giving them the support, providing them international exposure and motivating them. Then, it's all up to them to excel."

Razon also supports the campaigns of the Philippine pros on the same Tour, including two-time TCC international champion Angelo Que and Asvi Pajarillo, Tony Lascuña, Anthony Fernando and former ICTSI-TCC nominees Boy Relucio, Marvin Dumandan and Jay Bayron.

Although the ICTSI men's team performances dipped last season, Razon said he would be willing to assure themselves this year, starting with this month's PAVIV Invitational and Asiad-bound Antonio Javier II, Rufino Reyes, Dante Bautista and Peter Gilbero.

Coca-Cola partners PSA for awards rite

By Jasmine W. Pajo

A CHAMPION SUPPORTER OF PHILIPpine sports amateur at the forefront in celebrating the athletes' passion in sports and achievements.

The Coca-Cola Company, a longtime patron of many sports and sports advocacies, teamed up with the country's oldest media organization in presenting the 2011 Philippine Sportswriters Association Annual Awards Night on March 1 at the Manila Hotel.

In an unprecedented valentine, the Pinoy athletes will receive the tokens of the "true gluta in Philippine sports (athletes), Mikaela Tayam (athletes) and the personal roses of Ilmi Arca Ortega, Camille Antolin and Jessica Lagman (taekwondo) choice with their respectful performances on the world stage.

Joining sportsmen Manny Pacquiao will also share the spotlight with citizens as the recipient of the Athlete of the Decade award.

It isn't the first time that The Coca-Cola Company has supported and recognized the achievements of the country's elite athletes.

Just last year, Coca-Cola, through Powerade, backed the training and preparation of the Philippine men's basketball team to the Fiba Asia Championship and other international competitions.

The company also went one of the top beneficiaries in the Philippine Basketball Association and continued pioneering efforts such as the popular Coke Go Fit Go! program.

Belonging Gladys the Asian Basketball, the Philippine Pilot Most Valuable Player and a member of the Powerade national team, will lend the reality to celebrities during the affair.

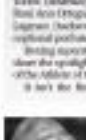
Atenio Alfonzo, the country's top female amateur boxer, three-sensation Shirley Ann and pool legends Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante are among 20 athletes who will receive medals awards.

Presidential and sports officials have been invited as a special guests of the event, also sponsored by Smart, Pacific Online Systems Corp., the Philippine Sports Commission, Hudson Grains and PCSO.

The 58 gold medalists in the 25th Southeast Asian Games in Laos last December will receive special citations, while the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association will be honored as the Team of the Year.

Other major awardees Arnel Ferreras (athletics), Elmer Salvador and Gilbert Revilla (golf) and Joel Calabroso (cycling), Brian Gilmita, Ronnie Nieto, Nestito Gonzalez Jr., Marvin Sonsona and Rodel Mark Bocalig), John Rayton Jordel, Carol Mandel and Princess Cindy Adamson (tennis), Aman H. Bacungan (chess) and Ted Arcilla (sepak takraw) are also listed to receive awards.

PACQUIAO



LASCUÑA

Asian Tour Int'l: Lascuña ties for 9th

BANGKOK—FLASHIE UNSPECTACular but clearly golf, Antonio Lascuña salvaged a top-10 finish at the season-opening Asian Tour International Stadium.

The dusky 40-year-old Lascuña shot a 2-under-par 70 after earlier rounds of 75-73-71 to join a four-way tie for ninth place at 285.

Lascuña, who wound up a career-best 47th overall in the tour last season, pulled up P1,746,56.

Johan Pareja, a defender after 36 holes with rounds of 69-69, bounced back from a 76 Saturday with a 71 and tied compatriots Angelo Que, who closed with a 73 for 14th at 288.

The best earned $1,000 each.

Taguiguin Bhullar produced a course-record 64 to win by one shot Thailand's Kiradech Aphibarnrat (69) at the Siam Country Club with an 11-under 277 total.

James Dee Ayes

Giants oust E-Painters, reach semis

From page A29

hit 12 attempts from beyond the arc when Purefoods dropped Games 1 and 4.

But he was in blazing form in the game, which drew a season-high 13,402 fans, burying 13 of his 22 shots in the net.

The Elasto Painters were looking to become the first team in over a decade to oust a best-of-three series in the finals.

And for a while, Fajardo, Slaughter, Ildefonso Hodge and Gabe Norwood looked on track of that target by keeping in step with the Giants in a close first half until Hapchoud hit outside.

The powerful crowns in a 12-9 burst that gave Purefoods a 62-54 lead in the third period.

"We made adjustments," said Tsp. "I got the ball just inside the three-point line, so it took me one or two dribbles to drive to the basket. I was getting the ball outside the three-point line to Games 3 and 4 and the defense kept on collapsing on me, that's why I struggled."

Ali Mercado kept the Elasto Painters in the game with a triple that sliced the deficit, 65-61.

That proved to be their last attack as Tsp and Hamanda ended consecutive jumpers.

Classy Kenyans rule Condura Run

BENJAMIN KIMUTAI AGAIN showed up the local competition, topping both the men's and women's divisions of the Condura Run for the Dolphins marathon which started and ended in the Global City in Taguig yesterday.

Mercy "skyrun" Jeptoo Kipsang clocked two hours, 39 minutes and two seconds while female champion Ruth Boyton timed 1:14:48, more than a minute clear of compatriot Susan Chemutai (1:16:52). The winners pocketed P60,000 each and the second-placer P40,000.

The Condura race, which was also run along the Skyway, is the first P2K race in Metro Manila this year.

Kipsang, who then lives in the mountain by for the last three months, managed to shake off siblings Cheruiyot and Elijah Sobol only in the final 4km.

Ebaye eventually lost by three seconds. Three-time Milo Marathon winner Cheruiyot was third in 2:36:46.

Luisa Bedico-Rubiato fired 3:28:39 for third place in the women's division.

The men's 21K top-finishers were Eric Bonjon (1:11:53), Alejan Bellow (1:12:54) and Glen Quinto (1:13:38) while the women's top three were Mercel Magbanua (1:30:01), Wren Ann Rosario (1:39:38) and Jacqueline Robbuch (1:44:43).

Willy Tanz (1:21:22) and Mercedes M. Reniton (2:08:39) topped the 10K.

Beatrice S. Acosta

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
BUREAU OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
8th Floor DBP-I Building, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex Roxas Boulevard, Manila 1004
Telefax Nos. 527-0180 / 527-0185
E-mail: blgf@blgf.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Utility Vehicles

1. The **Bureau of Local Government Finance- Department of Finance (BLGF-DOF)**, through the BLGF Budget R.A. No. 9524 intends to apply the sum of *Two Million Four Hundred Thousand Pesos Only (Php 10,400,000.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Utility Type Vehicles, as described in annex (If this ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening).
2. The **Bureau of Local Government Finance-Department of Finance (BLGF-DOF)** now calls for the **Supply and Delivery of Utility Type Vehicles**. Delivery of the goods is required within **thirty (30) calendar days** upon receipt of Notice to Proceed (NTP). The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **February 11 – March 12, 2018, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **Php 1,000.00** (excluding courier fee outside of Metro Manila). The method of payment will be in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidders or their duly authorized representatives.
6. The **BLGF BAC** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **February 20, 2018 at 2:00 pm at the BLGF Conference Room, 4th Floor, DBP-I Bldg., BSP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila.**
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **March 15, 2018 at 2:00 pm.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security equivalent to two (2%) percent of the ABC in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's/Manager's Check, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit or Bank Guarantee. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **March 15, 2018, 2:00 pm**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The **BLGF-BAC** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.
10. The address referred to above is:

Bureau of Local Government Finance
Department of Finance (BLGF-DOF)
8th Floor DBP-I Bldg., BSP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila
Tel. No.: 5180 (LGF-BAC) or 527-0185
Fax No.: 5180 (LGF-BAC) or 527-0185

(sgd.)
MA. PRESENTACION R. MONTESA
Executive Director

(PSE – February 9 & 10, 2018)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
PARAMANG PARAKBAYAN SA PILIPINO
National Irrigation Administration
IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE
Bicutan, Taguig City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE EMERGENCY REPAIR OF ANDAMAN RIP

The National Irrigation Administration, now invites bids for the Emergency Repair of Andaman RIP, Bicutan, Taguig City, Metro Manila, Contract Id No. Bicutan is composed of the following contract packages:

1. The Civil Works Within Box Culvert, Four Thousand Nine Hundred Ten Pesos (₱4,910.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is payable under the contract for the Supply and Delivers of Utility Type Vehicles, as described in annex (If this ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening).
2. The Civil Works Within Box Culvert, Four Thousand Nine Hundred Ten Pesos (₱4,910.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is payable under the contract for the Supply and Delivers of Utility Type Vehicles, as described in annex (If this ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening).
3. The Civil Works Within Box Culvert, Four Thousand Nine Hundred Ten Pesos (₱4,910.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is payable under the contract for the Supply and Delivers of Utility Type Vehicles, as described in annex (If this ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/nationals, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy percent (70%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the National Irrigation Administration, Irrigation Management Office, Bicutan, Taguig City and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from February 9, 2018 – March 1, 2018 from National Irrigation Administration, Irrigation Management Office, Bicutan, Taguig City and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos only (₱5,000.00).

The National Irrigation Administration will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on February 16, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room, Irrigation Management Office, Bicutan, Taguig City, Metro Manila, Against Bid Security in the form of irrevocable letter of credit, bank guarantee, or surety bond.

Bids must be received on or before March 1, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at National Irrigation Administration, Irrigation Management Office, Bicutan, Taguig City. Bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The National Irrigation Administration reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:
[illegible]
Irrigation Management Officer
Bicutan, Taguig City
Tel. No. [illegible]
Fax No. [illegible]

(sgd.)
[illegible]
Regional Manager

Noted:
(sgd.)
[illegible]
Regional Manager

(PSE – February 9, 2018)

JOB Market LA LIBRE

You can now checkout more jobs from JobMarket Libre

For advertisers, inquire about the Job Market package at 897-8808 loc. 514

JOB Market

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CITY OF MANDALUYONG
Mayor's Office, City of Mandaluyong

[illegible]

ITEM NO.	ACTIVITY	ABC	Bid Document Fee
[illegible]			
[illegible]	Laboratory Supplies and Materials	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Drugs and Medicines	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Medical Supplies	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Other Supplies and Materials	[illegible]	[illegible]

All interested prospective eligible Bidders are invited to view the Invitation to Bid, Pre-bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Notice of Contract Award as posted in the website/bulletin board of the LGU and in the Philippine Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS).

Prospective bidders should have completed, within the period specified in the PBAC, all the following requirements: (1) Valid and current Mayor's/Business Permit issued by the city where the principal place of business of the prospective bidder is located; (2) Valid and current Tax Clearance per Executive Order 398, Series of 2005, as finally reviewed and approved by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR); (3) Valid and current PhilGEPS Certificate of Registration; and (4) Latest Income/Business Tax Return.

The complete list of BAC Secretariat is as follows:

DESIGNATION	SALUTATION
Chairman	Chairperson of the BAC
Vice-Chairman	Vice-Chairperson of the BAC
Member	Member of the BAC
Member	Member of the BAC
Member	Member of the BAC
Member	Member of the BAC
Member	Member of the BAC
Member	Member of the BAC
Member	Member of the BAC
Member	Member of the BAC
Member	Member of the BAC

The BAC shall reserve the right to reject any or all bids, declare failure of bidding, or not award the contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Interested bidders are advised that unless they are invited to submit a bid, only bids submitted before the deadline shall be considered. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

The City of Mandaluyong reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, and assumes no responsibility or obligation to inform affected bidders of the grounds for such action.

(sgd.) CHRISTOPHER D. RAMIREZ
BAC Secretariat

(PSE–February 9 & 10, 2018)

PHILIPPINE MINING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
6/F DMCI Mall Annex (PSE Centre, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. Nos. 636-1000 to 1030 loc 28

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Mining Development Corporation (PMDC) in inviting all interested HMO Service Providers to apply for eligibility and submit sealed bids to provide preventive, diagnostic and treatment services from accredited hospitals, medical centers and clinics to qualified and accepted employees, subject to terms and conditions stipulated in the terms of reference.

Minimum number of persons to be covered is 43 employees and dependents
Contract Duration: One year, renewable
Approved Budget: ₱1M-2M/HMO for all members

Interested parties may initially secure the Eligibility Requirement Forms starting **06 February 2018** up to **13 February 2018** during office hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) from the BAC Secretariat at the above address c/o THAI KRISTINE S. RAMAS.

The Letter of Intent to participate including supporting eligibility documents/requirements stated in the Eligibility and Qualification Requirements Checklist for pre-qualification must be submitted personally from **06 February 2018** to **13 February 2018** to the above mentioned address.

The pre-qualified bidders, upon receipt of an invitation letter from the PMDC may proceed to the Bidding Documents together with the Terms of Reference from **14 February 2018** to **02 March 2018**.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, pre-bidding conference for all qualified bidders will be held at the PMDC Pasig Office on **02 March 2018 (Friday)** at 2 p.m.

Sealed Bid Proposals shall be submitted to and registered with the PMDC BAC Secretariat at the above-address and contact person not later than **8:00 A.M.** (Philippine Office Hour) Due time is **12 March 2018 (Wednesday). Late dropping of bids shall not be accepted.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter.

All prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as stipulated in the bidding documents before submission of quotation. Source of funding is internal cash generation of PMDC. In case shortfall is within the Approved Budget for the contract in order to qualify.

The PMDC further reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract and maintain no assurance that this contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation, without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) ATTY. JAIME T. DE VEYRA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PSE– February 9, 2018)

BATANGAS II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.
Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City

INVITATION TO BID

What	:	**Bidding for the Supply and Delivery of Various Line Materials & Equipment IFB 2018-001**
When	:	**February 17, 2018 (Pre-Bidding Conference) 10:00 a.m.**
Where	:	**BATELEC II Main Office Basement Antipolo del Norte Lipa City**
Cost of Bid Documents	:	**Cost of Bid Documents will be announced 2 days before the Pre-Bid Conference**
What	:	**Bidding for the Supply and Delivery of 100MVA Substation Equipment, Materials and Accessories IFB 2018-03**
When	:	**February 17, 2018 (Pre-Bidding Conference) 3:00 p.m.**
Where	:	**BATELEC II Main Office Basement Antipolo del Norte Lipa City**
Cost of Bid	:	**Php 7,000.00**

For inquiries, prospective Bidders may call PBAC Secretariat Ms. Rona Lea A. Filio or Mr. Joan D. Arao at (043) 756-6201 local 127.

(Sgd.) RAZHEL A. MAWADSAN
Procurement, Bids and Awards Committee Chairperson

(PSE Edge & G-Mail)

ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
[illegible]

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY POWER, DUALLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF RA 9136 AND RES NO. 02-01-2007 TO CONFIRM THE EMERGENCY DECLARED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PROCESS AND MANNER OF PURCHASE ACCORDINGLY

[illegible]

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

[illegible]

Before a hearing date fixed on November 15, 2018, respondent Cooperative, Inc. (BEC) filed an application for approval for Emergency Power Purchase and Manner of the Declaration of Emergency Power Purchase Agreement, Evaluation and Approval of Emergency Power Supply Program and

Super Bowl: Head coach key as Saints battle Colts

MIAMI — MITCHEL MILP-INDEBOT ES-thusiasm and inclusive intelligence, New Orleans Saints head coach Sean Payton has transformed a franchise known for failure into Super Bowl contenders.

On Sunday, Payton, in his fourth season as head coach, will be pacing the sidelines as his Saints take on the Indianapolis Colts for the biggest prize in the NFL.

Defensive end Will Smith has no doubt that his coach has been the key factor to turning around the Saints.

"When Sean came to the Saints he was a little bit, he kept the guys that he thought really wanted to be there and wanted to play. He's brought us a lot of north guys, not only great players but great people," said Smith of Payton, 46, who can cover an entrance in the Dallas Cowboys to two-time Super Bowl winner Bill Parcells. Reuters

Addmix taps Austria, Falcons

ADDMIX HAS TAPPED ICOMBON COACH Leo Austria and the core players of the Falcons to prop up its maiden bid in the 2010 PBL PG Pilot UK Invitational on Feb. 16.

But Austria expects the Falcons, who fell just a rung short in the 2009 UAAP Final Four, to pull off a competitive run with the addition of 2009 NCAA Mythical Team member Go Circuits of Ateneo University-ng Austria's son and former worldcaver Bacon Austria and San Beda's Jake Pascual.

"[Universe] is PBA material, so I believe he will become a star in the league," said Austria.

"Ok lang the games to guide us, and if we can protect it, then we have a very good chance in the coming tournament," said Austria.

Gilbert Cruz will serve as the board representative of Addmix. Jasmine B. Pejo

Cavs make it 11 straight

CLEVELAND—LEBRON JAMES SCORED 47 POINTS, INCLUDing 24 straight for Cleveland in the first half, as the Cleveland Cavaliers held off the New York Knicks, 113-106, for their 11th straight NBA victory on Saturday.

James, who historically has saved some of his best performances for the Knicks, set a team record with 33 points in the first half, thanks to his remarkable streak. He finished one point shy of his season high while adding eight rebounds and eight assists.

CAVALIERS superstar LeBron James scores down 47 points, including 24 straight, against the Knicks. AFP

He needed just 5:29 to score 24 straight—16 in a row to end the first quarter and eight straight to start the second. He closed the first quarter with four 3-pointers in the final two minutes, including a pair from 32 feet in the final 37 seconds.

Shaquille O'Neal scored 19 for Cleveland, which is run dry of tying the Knicks record for consecutive wins it set last season.

In Portland, Oregon, Lamar Odom replaced an injured Kobe Bryant and matched his career high with 20 rebounds, as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Portland Trail Blazers, 99-92.

Bryant sat out with a sore left ankle, ending the 12-time All-Star's run of 233 straight games.

Odom also scored 10 points as the Lakers pulled away in the fourth quarter, leading by as many as 19 points, en route to ending a nine-game losing streak at the Rose Garden.

Portland was again without All-Star guard Brandon Roy who will miss the next three games and the All-Star with a hamstring injury. AP

THUNDERBIRD BEXAN XP SCORES AN INTERNATIONAL DERBY GRANDSLAM

The pioneer in LASIK in the Philippines –
The only NASA and US military approved LASIK treatment system.

PRECISE EYE LASER CENTER

LASIK. The New Shape Of Vision

It's not easy being astigmatic, farsighted or nearsighted especially if you're into sports or toasted with school or office work. Desperately longing to have 20-20 vision? Now, there's a far more better choice with the all-laser LASIK. It's safer, painless, affordable – and with no side effects! Short recovery period but the results are long-lasting.

LASIK is the only LASIK procedure approved by NASA for its astronauts and by the US F.D.A. and Department of Defense. The use of the Intralase LASIK method was approved in 2007 on their aviators in the Navy, Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps, federal and civilian agencies. Commercial airlines also adopted the laser program for their pilots. This remarkable endorsement after a thorough process of clinical studies confirmed the distinct advantages of the LASIK because of the Intralase Method.

Precise Eye Laser Center is the pioneer in LASIK technology in the Philippines which includes the Intralase Femtosecond laser and VISX Customvue technologies. We have a roster of certified and experienced LASIK surgeons to ensure quality and personalized results.

Say yes to a better lifestyle – at school, at work, or in contact sports like basketball, soccer, taekwondo, boxing. Perform at your peak in social activities, whenever and whatever time of the day. Experience a life totally free from eye glasses or contacts lens.

Find out if you're a good candidate for LASIK. Contact Precise Eye Laser Center at 353-1334, 353-1836, 0917.3662163 (GLOBE), 0920.4022291 (SUN) or visit http://www.LASIKmania.asia

"Precision for a better vision...only at Precise Eye Laser Center"

SPORTS WATCH

Makati 8-cock derby unfolds

COCKERS WILL CLASH tomorrow at the Makati Coliseum as the Makati Invitational 8-Cock Derby with more than 100 fights in today's elimination round.

The finals are slated Wednesday. The guaranteed prize is expected to be top P3 million.

Among the top contenders are defending champions John Caspillo, Eric dela Rosa and Allen Isaac who clinched last year's title.

Sponsoring organizer Imeodern enlisted as the latest 2PI (Philippine Stable Cup and NCA Petrol Championship arm dino and spelling, according to promoters Lito Bellaro, Rudy Salud and GSM group.

SJC ready for 'Rambulan'

THE SAN JUAN (SJC)-varsity hosts five today the "15.5 M National-wide Rambulan 8-Cock Derby" a series that is expected to attract more than 1,500 entries.

Eliminations will be held today and on Wednesday. Qualifiers will advance to the semifinal round on Saturday.

The SJC management asked P15.5 and have guaranteed prize for an entry fee of P10,000.

The grand finals will be held at SJC's covered court.

Editor Raul G. Manuela ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

First Pacific unit seen bagging SCTEx deal

BCDA to junk SMC appeal, issue decision on Feb. 11

By Doris C. Dumlao and Abigail L. Ho

THE STATE-OWNED BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT AUthority (BCDA) may ask the Metro Pacific group—the lone eligible bidder for the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway operations and maintenance (O&M) contract—to improve its proposal to meet the basic financial terms required during a recent auction.

The minimum financial requirement that Metro Pacific's subsidiary Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC) must match to buy the contract is equivalent to the BCDA's annual amortization of P1.13 billion on the 30-year concessional loan that funded the concern's longest tollway, sources privy to the bidding estimated.

The sources told the Inquirer that the BCDA was now ruffled to ask MNTC to match the financial terms of reference to win the hotly contested contract—a move deemed contentious with Commission on Audit rules.

The BCDA is also poised to reject an appeal filed by Metro Pacific corporate rival San Miguel Corp. for reconsideration to participate in the bidding.

But if MNTC does not match the minimum requirements, the BCDA may call for a new round of bidding, the sources added.

BCDA vice president for business development Alfredo Zoro said the government agency would give an update by Thursday. He denied that BCDA had made up its mind on the issue, saying no update would

(TURN TO B6)

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Factory prices** of key manufactured goods down /B4

■ **Citigroup to expand** RP operations, hire 1,000 workers /B6

■ **Thrift banks' bad** debts up/B5

■ **Gov't seen losing** P55.5B in 2010/B7

PASSION PERSONIFIED

EACH ENGINE IS FINE-TUNED LIKE YOU WOULD A CONCERT PIANO. BY EAR.

This is the journey of the master craftsmen at Lexus. An elite team, hand-picked from among the finest engineers dedicated to details where even precision machinery cannot detect. Guided by human intuition to see, hear and touch in every artful step of the making and finishing of every car.

LEXUS

THE PURSUIT OF PERFECTION

LEXUS MANILA, INC. | 3402 9th Avenue Corner 34th Street North Bonifacio Global City, Taguig 1634 | Tel. (632) 8560 8080

Simple answers to business hassles.

Business Maybank CASH MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Damned lies and statistics

THE RECENT DOUBLE FULL-page "Gaudy says noon, Gaudy says sparrow" ad trumpeting the supposed achievements of President Macapagal-Arroyo—"Time to mind the space swallowed in 10th century British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli: "There are three kinds of lies: Lies, damned lies, and statistics."

There are at least four ways to lie—as in the crazy-loan mishead—with statistics: (1) Use them selectively; (2) Manufacture your own; (3) Point them in the wrong light; or (4) Claim, unlike credit for them. And all four appear to be manifested in the array of dazzling figures laid out by the Palace spin masters to their full page spreads to leave us believe that we should all be eternally grateful to the current president.

Selective statistics

The most common trick is to use and present statistics selectively. There are a number of ways of doing this. One is to ignore duration in the presentation of certain data. An item that people readily use through is the claim that the 294,995 housing units provided under Arroyo's watch exceeds Ramos' 203,891 and Estrada's 98,265. But this can, constantly ignores that Arroyo-and-one years to do it against Ramos' six and Estrada's two-and-a-half years. Even on average per year basis, Arroyo actually had the lowest performance at 32,777 units, against Ramos' 33,981 and Estrada's 39,306.

Another trick is to omit bad years in reckoning averages, to be able to project a more positive picture than otherwise. Another that met with wide reaction is the claim that the high-est average annual rate of economic growth it was achieved under Arroyo (4.06 percent against Aquino's 3.1, Ramos' 3.6, and Estrada's 4.7 percent). But the same ad admits that the 2009 data were not included in the averaging, doing so would bring her average down to 4.4 percent, then lowest than Estrada's.

But others have pointed out that the comparisons are not even appropriate in the first place, as the averages for each president are taken over very different durations, like the housing data above. And I will no longer dwell on the even more fundamental questions raised by economists and international institutions on the credibility of Arroyo's GDP numbers, given unprecedented inconsistencies with other traditionally correlated economic data.

Omitting what matters

Another way to engage in selective statistics is to deliberately omit mention of key indicators where the numbers are bad. Conspicuously absent from Arroyo's report card is any mention of official poverty and household income statistics, and understandably so. The picture the numbers give is not pretty. From 2003, the number of Filipinos living below the poverty line had risen from 38 percent (26.4 percent of families) to 33 percent (26.9 percent of families) in 2006. Average real household income also fell 3 percent in the same period. And more for the richest sectors in the government now reminds that the numbers have probably worsened further since then.

This is of course a very crucial omission, as one could well argue that this is the one economic statistic that matters the most to Filipinos in large. No amount of economic growth or slowing inflation could truly matter if they fail to uplift the lives and reduce the numbers of the poor in our midst. And this is the single biggest black eye in the Arroyo presidency. Interestingly, the presidency of Joseph Estrada, who proclaimed himself "friend para sa mahirap," set really saw a similar rise in poverty (a report of by official data. Poverty under his watch actually rose from 33.9 percent (for 1997) to 34 percent (Philippine (in 2000), translating to about 2.5 million additional Filipinos descending into poverty—a distinct blow to the face of his claims of being champion of the poor.

Dubious numbers

But almost in an outright lie is the claim that 14.2 million jobs were created during Arroyo's presidency. One only need check the official jobs data from the National Statistics Office, which conducts a quarterly Labor Force Survey (LFS). The LFS reported 27.8 million employed workers in October 2000, and 35.5 million in October 2009. Straightforward arithmetic tells us that only 7.7 million additional jobs came about during Arroyo's watch, then. (Then can not see how the number cited could be a lower bound, as it is all likelihood, the Duterte had simply added up all the self-reported (and to many cases dubiously estimated) figures reported by different governmental agencies relating to "jobs created" by their various programs—secondarily, forgetting that there are official government data against which all of those could be checked. And it seems that much of the urban data cited in the ads are of the same self-reported nature originating from agencies out to prove their worth.

In examples of painting statistics in the wrong light is reporting rapid growth in OFW deployment, as if this were an accomplishment, when what it really means is that more and more Filipinos are being driven to leave their families to seek their fortunes abroad, for lack of opportunities here at home.

Finally, just one among many misinformed claiming undue credit is the proud report that there were only four Taiwan strikes in 2009, versus 66 in 2000. While the economy is now recovering in 2009, this is also claiming credit for the years and quiet to the grassroots.

Comments welcome at dtadtad@ateneo.edu

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

Sluggish trading seen . . .

Passage B2

Last week, the main share Philippine Stock Exchange shed another 3.3 percent to close at 3,403.44 on Friday. Since the start of the year, the local stock market has tumbled by about 6.4 percent.

"Therefore, the market's failure to try the 3,800 level implies further weakness toward the 3,600 level in the near-term," said Banco de Oro Unibank strategist Jonathan Ravelas.

Metro Arlyn Narciso, an analyst at AB Capital Securities, said the PSEi could turn flat as position-positive.

"Facing as a risk to the country's growth right now is the El Niño phenomenon. Agriculture, which makes up a significant portion of the GDP [gross domestic product], could suffer from drought as rains become less frequent. Water tables fell to critical levels and authorities are suggesting cloud seeding to bring in rain. Since supply and hydro plants are losing risks and shortage of power is imminent," Narciso said.

She said consumers may bear the brunt of this by paying higher fees as banking power outages. "With El Niño becoming an increasing concern, the business community is beginning to view it as a threat in the first quarter growth and Marcos effect the economy negatively," she said.

On the other hand, Narciso said corporate earnings may not be as strong as hoped for and recovery may be slow and could take long.

"The coming week may be tough but investors are advised to park stocks with stronger growth prospects and very strong fundamentals and firms that will be affected by the drought," she said. Doris C. Dumlao

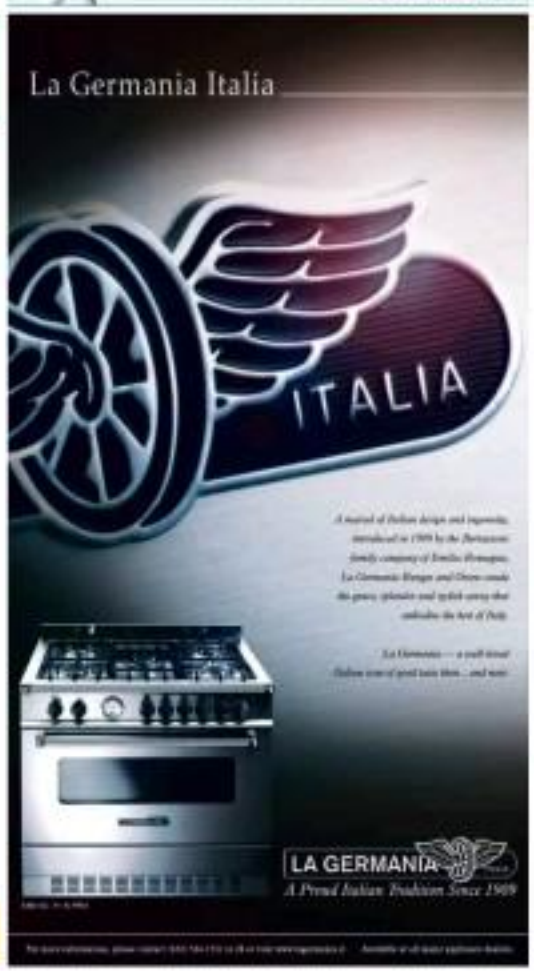
www.webtogo.com.ph
Get Online !
Web Services
starts at only P 6,000
webtogo

CCTV
535-3535
www.asi.com.ph

TeleEye
www.TeleEye.com

Frankfurt
Istanbul
London
Madrid
Milan
Moscow
Paris
Manila
Cebu
Prague
Rome
Toulouse
Tel Aviv
Vienna
Dubrovnik
Zurich
Atlanta
Chicago
Dallas
Honolulu
Las Vegas
Los Angeles
New York
San Francisco
Seattle
Toronto
Vancouver
Washington D.C.
Amsterdam
Cairo
Dubai
Seoul
Effortless travel. Every step along the way.
KOREAN AIR

veteransbank
10 NEW BRANCHES in 2010
Now with 60 branches nationwide to serve you.
1. Santiago, Isabela
2. Malolos, Bulacan
3. Olongapo, Zambales
4. Pasay City
5. Lipa, Batangas
6. San Pablo, Laguna
7. Kalibo, Aklan
8. Tagbilaran, Bohol
9. Pagadian, Zamboanga
10. Koronadal, South Cotabato
Philippine Veterans Bank.
Empowering today's Filipino heroes.
www.veteransbank.com.ph


La Germania Italia
ITALIA
LA GERMANIA
A Proud Italian Tradition Since 1909

Factory prices of key manufactured goods down

Eighth straight month of decline, NSO says

By Raoul M. Dumlao

FACTORY GATE PRICES OF KEY MANUFACTURED goods declined for the eighth straight month in December by 2.9 percent year-on-year, according to the National Statistics Office.

NSO noted, however, that the rate of decline slowed in December (the month) to prior to the prices of petroleum and wood products compared to the previous year.

Results of NSO's monthly survey of factory gate prices—covering 20 selected groups of manufactured goods—included for the first time gate index (FPI)—showed that prices of fuel rose 27.2 percent while those for wood went up 19.6 percent year-on-year in December.

Six other sectors showed single-digit increases, including chemicals, footwear and wearing apparel, textiles, publishing and printing, beverages and leather products.

On the other hand, prices of furniture and fixtures dropped faster at 31.2 percent.

Double-digit drops were also observed in basic metals, 19.4 percent; miscellaneous manufactured items, 13.6 percent; electrical machinery, 12.9 percent; fabricated metals, 11.6 percent; and paper products, 11.4 percent.

Meanwhile, on other sectors assessed prices at single-digit rates, namely non-electrical machinery, food manufacturing, transport equipment, tobacco, nonmetallic minerals and rubber and plastic products.

On a month-on-month basis, the FPI did by 0.3 percent in December to eight-sectors reported price decreases, with petroleum products shedding the most at 2.2 percent.

The other sectors' losses were in manufactured goods, miscellaneous manufactures, food manufacturing, basic metals, furniture equipment, chemicals and fabricated metal products.

Gainers included four subgroups led by rubber and plastic products, prices of which rose 2.9 percent on month.

Other gainers were footwear and wearing apparel, 2 percent; nonferrous metals, 1.2 percent; and furniture and fixtures, 0.2 percent.

Hardly any change was observed in eight sectors, including electrical machinery, textiles, leather, tobacco, wood, publishing and printing, beverages and paper.

5 Luzon power plants up for repair

By Aris F. Ilano

FIVE LARGE POWER PLANTS IN LUZON will undergo scheduled maintenance and maintenance checks, according to documents from National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP).

Three power facilities are the 1,200 megawatt (MW) Ilijan natural gas-fired power plant in Batangas, 440-MW coal-fired facility of Quezon Power Philippines Ltd. Co.; 1,000-MW Sta. Rita natural gas facility; 600-MW Calaca coal-fired plant and the 700-MW Pagbilao coal facility.

Three maintenance shutdowns already declared until May are now being coordinated by the NGCP to ensure that no two facilities would be offline at the same time.

This is to prevent a repeat of the existing power interruptions last Jan. 15, which was caused by the breakdown of a generation unit in the Sual power plant.

Other power plants could not undergone the last month from being because some were undergoing maintenance work.

Energy Secretary Angelo T. Reyes earlier appealed to power generation companies to coordinate their maintenance programs under the NGCP to avoid interruptions, particularly during the May elections.

"What we just want is for the maintenance shutdowns to be properly scheduled, and not done when they just want to, and that scheduled maintenance is also properly coordinated to ensure there are no breakdowns of plants. It's a matter of proper scheduling and coordination and transparency and regard for public interest," Reyes explained.

The rescheduled shutdowns, had companies on some power facilities and the El Niño-induced dry spell to have put a strain on the power supply of the Luzon grid.

As of Feb. 6, the Luzon grid had a power reserve of 384 MW while Mindanao has a slim 14-MW reserve. Visayas however, has a reserve deficit of about 123 MW. Luzon should have a power reserve of about 1,200 MW, according to NGCP.

The Tambuli Awards 2010
4th AMC Effectiveness Awards

Call for Entries

Celebrating profitable marketing that promotes societal values, the TAMBULI AWARDS is set to become an annual affair beginning this year. With the new competition on for July 2010, qualified campaigns produced or aired from January 1 to December 31, 2009 should submit their entries on or before APRIL 16.

- Best Established Service-Brand Campaign
- Best Innovative and Integrated Media Campaign
- Best Insights and Strategic Thinking
- Best Cross-Brand Campaign
- Best Family-Oriented Brand Campaign

Deadline for submission of entries is APRIL 16, 2010.

- Best Small Budget Product-Brand Campaign
- Best Small Budget Service-Brand Campaign
- Best Established Product-Brand Campaign

University of Asia and the Pacific
MORES
BusMedia

Global firms take virtual route

By Abigail L. Ho

AS THE WORLD BECOMES FLATTER, OR, participants the world over are also choosing to take the virtual route, with more global executives now considering having "virtual teams," rather than face-to-face meetings.

In a recent report, titled "Managing virtual teams: Taking a more strategic approach," the Economist Intelligence Unit found that 70 percent of the more than 400 global executives it polled had worked in, or was still working in, virtual teams.

The EIU Corp.-sponsored report defined a "virtual team as a group of geographically dispersed people using primarily or exclusively the powers of information and communication technology to accomplish common goals.

Its second half of the term, their virtual teams simply evolved and were not really planned for any specific purpose.

Only 13 percent of the respondents said their virtual teams were put in place to enable flexibility in the workplace, and just 5 percent said the virtual team scheme was implemented in their organizations to reduce their carbon footprint.

"Virtual teams are absolutely essential to most, if not all, companies doing business on any sort of global scale. However, relatively little thought has gone into how best to manage and coordinate these teams," EIU managing editor James Watson said in a statement.

According to the report, one in three of the executives polled believed virtual teams were badly managed, giving rise to problems such as misunderstandings as a result of cultural differences and the greater difficulty of leading people from a distance.

Despite these setbacks, the report revealed that 40 percent of the respondents still felt that the advantages of having virtual teams far outweighed the disadvantages.

"Given the potential cost and efficiency benefits, coupled with the availability of an ever-expanding number of affordable technologies and services, it is no surprise that virtual working has become a normal and accepted part of the business landscape. In fact, the implications of not embracing or considering virtual working would probably be greater than the potential costs or risks," HP, Philips Unified Communications managing director Chris de Silva said.

RP exports to Taiwan down 33%

THE TOTAL VALUE OF SHIPMENTS OF GOODS shipped to Taiwan as of end-November 2009 dropped 32.7 percent to $1.44 billion, from almost $2.2 billion in the same 11-month period the year before.

Data from Taiwan's Ministry of Economic Affairs also showed that Taiwan's exports to the Philippines also went down a little less than 34 billion in the January-November 2009 period, 11.2 percent lower than the $4.5 billion registered in the same period in 2008.

Total trade between the two countries slipped 18.2 percent in the first 11 months of 2009 to $5.4 billion from $6.6 billion the year before.

For the report period, Taiwan posted a trade surplus of $2.8 billion, 8.7 percent better than the year-ago period's $5.3 billion.

From January-November 2009, the Philippines was Taiwan's 15th largest overall trading partner, accounting for 1.6 percent of all exports and imports.

Taiwan's exports to the Philippines made up 2.2 percent of Taiwan's outbound shipments over the first 11 months of 2009.

The Philippines was Taiwan's 9th biggest export market in the same period.

This year, the Philippines extends to get more investments from Taiwan.

The Department of Trade and Industry-attached Bureau of Export Trade Promotion will be holding outbound and inbound business missions to Taiwan within the year.

Focus industries for the outbound mission are automotive parts and Philippine food products.

The Manila Economic and Cultural Office, an agency promoting the Philippines in Taiwan, has also lined up plans to bring more Taiwanese tourists into the country this year via incentive and conducted tour packages. —Abigail L. Ho

Thrift banks' bad debts up

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE THRIFT BANKING SECTOR registered higher exposure to bad debts as of the third quarter of 2009.

According to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the average non-performing loan (NPL) ratio of thrift banks rose to 6.44 percent as of end-September 2009 from 7.47 percent as of end-June.

The latest NPL ratio was also higher year-on-year, jumping from 5.61 percent as of end-September 2008.

NPL ratio is the proportion of loaned funds to the outstanding loans extended by banks to individual and corporate borrowers, curbsiding other banks. It is closely watched indicator that shows how healthy a bank is as he as its lending business is considered.

Data from the central bank showed that the increase in the NPL ratio was due to the increase in non-performing loans and the decline in outstanding loans.

The banks' bad loans rose quarter-on-quarter to P25.05 billion from P23.29 billion.

On the other hand, total loan portfolio of thrift banks hit only P287 billion, down from P313 billion.

The non-performing assets (NPA) to total assets ratio, which is the proportion of nonperforming loans and assets acquired due to loan defaults, amounted to P48.25 billion.

Loan loss reserve were recorded at P5.86.79 billion, the NPA ratio settled at 9.58 percent as of end-September.

Like the secured loans to total

Your No. 1 Choice for Office Machines!
FINGERPRINT TIME RECORDER
P9,900
FREE one year maintenance contract
CARD MACHINE
BUNDY CLOCK
ENTERPRISE SYSTEMS

NIDEKA
NEW BUNDY CLOCK + FINGERPRINT SCANNER
• Fingerprint scan to avoid buddy punching
• Physical timecard record to avoid time disputes between employer and employee
P8,888

Manly PLASTIC INC.
PLASTIC PALLET
Stackable Flat (4) Way Sixty Plastic Pallet
Stackable Flat (4) Way Sixty Plastic Pallet with Runners
Skid Plastic Pallet Flooring
(02) 373-97-97 (02) 641-09-29 (0922) 230-06-21

MYOB
Mind Your Own Business Smarter
With Multi-Warehouse Inventory!
MYOB Accounting Solutions
MANILA: (02) 633-99-00 (02) 633-0000
CEBU: (032) 402-1640 | (032) 236-4201 | (032) 402-1642
DAVAO: (082) 221-2800 | (082) 224-1211 | (082) 221-1642
MUSTARD SEED

From the Ivatans of Batanes to the Tawi-tawians of Tawi-tawi
Unites the Filipino
JRS EXPRESS
Serving the Filipino since 1968
www.jrs-express.com

Make it a more WIN with
Sanha
SH 360NCD
FEATURES
CD
Ideal for Indoor & Outdoor Events
• Public campaigns
• Seminars / Conferences
• Schools
• Sport Activities
• Church events
Main Office:
BRAIN

Calling BUSINESS PARTNERS!
NOW YOU CAN BRING
CENTER FOR POP
BRING OUT THE STAR IN YOU
TRAINING PROGRAM
IN YOUR CITY OR TOWN
We are looking for partners who are interested to bring the Center for Pop franchise system to their locality. Enjoy an attractive, quick-profit sharing scheme.
Our products include Charis Perfumery, facial cleansing, body care lotions, Master Iron Oil, Tyler, Infinity, Korea's Sandara Hair, and many others.
Inquire Now!
First-come first-served in your area!
MR. JEFF MEDES
Business Center Associate
or
MS. KATHY DIUTISTA
Business Center Associate
THE CENTER FOR POP MUSIC PHILIPPINES INC.
727-5283 • 411-7315
0918-960-8734

ATTENTION:
CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISERS
For STOCKHOLDER'S MEETINGS, INVITATION TO BID, DEPARTMENT ORDERS and BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES, advertise in the Inquirer National Classifieds.
We guarantee VALUE FOR YOUR MONEY and GREATER MILEAGE because of the EXTENSIVE MARKET COVERAGE and SCOPE we offer.
INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

COUNT YOUR SAVINGS. BANK ON SUCCESS.
intel Xeon
Powerful. Intelligent.
Spend less on a server and more on your business with the HP ProLiant
HP ProLiant ML110 G6
Php 45,500*
HP ProLiant DL120 G6 Server
Php 133,000*
HP BladeSystem c3000
Php 599,999*
hp

Citigroup to expand operations in RP, hire 1,000 workers

By Doris C. Dumlao

AMERICAN BANKING GIANT CITIgroup plans to expand its local operations alongside a recent upbeat financial environment, preparing to hire up to manpower by about 1,000 this year particularly for the consumer and business process outsourcing businesses.

"I think what you will see is a ramp-up of our investments this year not only on the BPO side but also on the banking side," Citibank Philippines chief executive officer Ramy Mina said in an interview last week.

Citibank is currently 1,000-staff capacities in the Philippines. The number includes the employees of its regular operating global shared services unit. The call has expanded by about 30 percent for now, Mina said.

But the group plans to hire more people also for its core banking business, particularly for the consumer unit. Hiring an additional 1,000 staff could thus be easily done for the full year, he added.

"A big part of it is continuous because consumer [banking] is a people business; whenever the economy ebbs, we don't need that many people," he said.

Mina said he sees no reason to be bullish on the economic side of the business, noting that the group sees making the right investments at such as banking, technology and manpower.

Citibank purchased Solidbank Savings Bank in 1995, which became its fourth banking unit. Citibank now has over the years, it has rebranded these branches. It expects to wrap up the rebranding and expansion soon and end up with 36 operational branches by March this year.

"Citibank itself is one of the biggest investments that Citi had made in the Philippines over the last 14 years," he said.

Bullish on consumer growth in 2010

At the domestic economy guru Jimmy Ruiz Velasco said it would be a good year for the banking business.

"If the economy is up, there's a straight correlation in terms of consumption, wealth effects, in terms of bond investors, M&As [mergers and acquisitions]. If the economy is good, all sectors will kick in," he said.

Last year was relatively a good year for banks, coming from a low base in 2008 when the US-induced financial crisis battered the whole world. "In terms of growth, I do see growth in 2010," he said.

Despite the woes of its parent in the US and its dragging effects during the global crisis, Citigroup has remained a strong banking franchise in the Philippines.

As part of its expansion, Citi rolled out to its retail banking clients last week its Citigold wealth management platform, which provides highly personalized services to high net worth individuals.

MPIC vows to pursue Meralco deal

By Dustin L. Lucas

WITH ITS STOCK PRICE RAISING been latecomered to record on in recent weeks, the local holding firm of businessman Manuel Pangilinan has sought to allay fears that it would renege on a previous deal to acquire a small but strategically important stake in Manila Electric Co.

An official of Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) told the business that the publicly listed company was "committed" to acquiring the 6.7 percent stake of the Lopez family in Meralco despite two successive delays over the last month in finalizing the deal.

"It just a matter of agreeing and putting everything into place," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "[Beng Kong-based parent firm] First Pacific Co. Ltd. and a few banks are finalizing the timeline."

Under the scheme disclosed by the official, MPIC would pay the Lopez family in two installments. The first P6.9-billion tranche would be paid by March, while the balance of P4.6 billion "would be funded by June".

MPIC's stock price has suffered a beating on the bourse since mid-January after it announced successive delays in finalizing an option contract with the Lopez family to acquire a 6.7 percent stake in Meralco.

Pangilinan's group gained control over the power retailer by snatching an offer of rival shareholder San Miguel Corp. to buy the stake at P200 a share. Since then, however, Meralco's share price has declined steadily, both going out to P432 per share last week. At the said price of P288, Pangilinan's group would have to recognize a paper loss of 48 percent on their P11.2-billion purchase price.

Asked about the rationale for the overtaken about the new payment timetable, the official said that MPIC was "concerned" about the impression among investors that the firm was having difficulty in completing up the money to pay for its additional Meralco stake.

"We hope that information would reassure them," the official explained.

Dealers fears that MPIC would walk away from the cattle deal prompted investors to sell down the holding firm's shares on the local bourse. MPIC's stock price has declined 20 percent since it announced the delays in the execution of the option agreement with the Lopez family last month. The drop outpaced the performance of the Philippine Stock Exchange index, which declined only 9.4 percent during the same period.

Another ranking official of the PLDT group validated the payment timetable when appended for confirmation by the business over the weekend.

"MPIC has the money and they said not change [on the deal]," the official said.

First Pacific unit . . .

From page B1

to-trade until 2010, 11.

Asked whether the BCDA would proceed with negotiations with either of the bidders or just officially declare a bidding failure, Zamora said it was premature.

"If the initial six interested bidders, only two ended up submitting technical and financial bids for ICTSI—AIRTC and Hyundai Toll Management Corp., a joint venture between San Miguel Corp. and Ideal Tollways Corp.

Opening of bids for last Jan. 23, however, BCDA declared Hyundai ineligible to proceed due to incompliance with some technical requirements stated in the terms of reference for the bidding. As a result, the Hyundai financial bid was no longer opened.

MRTC, on the other hand, passed the BCDA's scrutiny on the technical side, but the failed to make the cut on the financial aspect "since it fell short of BCDA's minimum requirements as set forth in the TOR."

Whatever the BCDA decision will be, MRTC vice president for corporate communications Monsignor Dolan said the company is ever prepared to get into negotiations with the government agency anytime.

"We have an unsolicited proposal since from BCDA, but the terms of reference] expired so, being the eligible bidder, we negotiate with BCDA. We are ready for the negotiations in case we requested for reconsideration is entered," the said in a text message sent to the business.

MRTC operates the MTR under an interim operations and management contract. MRTC is paid about P30 million a month to do this job, equivalent to about 70 percent of the monthly revenues of the railway in 2009.

Disclosures

THE BOARD of **San Miguel Corp.** on Feb. 2 declared a cash dividend of P0.20 a share to all stockholders of record as of Feb. 18. The cash dividend is payable on March 6.

* * *

SAN MIGUEL Pure Foods Co. Inc. on Feb. 2 authorized an increase in its authorized capital stock by P1 billion, or 100 million shares at P10 each. It also declared an 18-percent stock dividend based on the issued and outstanding shares to be taken out of the increase in capital stock. Fractional entitlement dates are to be announced. The increase has also been subject to special shareholders' meeting scheduled on the stockholders' of record as of Feb. 18 shall be entitled to vote at the said meeting.

* * *

PHILEX MINING Development Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on March 26, 2:30 p.m., at the **Manila Polo Club** in Makati. Stockholders of record as of Feb. 23 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the said meeting.

* * *

ISELCO II Philippines Inc. will hold its annual general stockholders' meeting on May 6. Stockholders of record as of May 4 will be entitled to attend and to vote at the said meeting.

* * *

PHILSEC Bohol has disclosed the buyback of 45,000 shares at P14.50 and sold 20,000 shares at P15.00 in a period Feb. 2, in line with the company's share buyback program.

* * *

GOODYEAR Land Corp. has disclosed the buyback of 500,000 shares at P11.20 per share. Before buyback of 100,000 shares at P11.00 per share and the buyback of 47,000 shares at P11.25 per share on Jan. 27, in line with the company's share buyback program.

Compiled by Grizelda Gonzales, Inquirer Research

Domestic passenger air traffic grew 25.3% in '09, CAB says

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO traveled by air within the country last year grew by a quarter, as airlines offered low fares and budget trips took advantage of cheaper fares offered by hotel centers.

Data from the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) released late Friday showed a 25.34-percent jump in the number of people who traveled by air within the country in 2009 to 11.78 million compared to 12.77 million in 2008.

"In international travel, there might have been a slight decline but domestic travel did well because of the tight competition among airlines, which led to lower fares," CAB Executive Director Carmelo Arcilla said.

Other than the usual reasons, Arcilla said people who used to travel by sea to go home from Manila to their home provinces were now taking planes more often because of the convenience and the decline in prices. "In the past few years, domestic travel has been getting stronger, but international travel is really once-in-a-year," Arcilla said.

Go Negosyo-led Cebu Pacific Air formed the most passengers in the 12-month period at 7.23 million. This is 3.8 percent more than the 6.96 million the airline carried in 2008.

The company's lead PAL(C) in the number of seats filled relative to the number of seats available on each flight, also improved to 81.04 from 79.79 percent in 2008.

"[The increase was due to] higher load-and-movement ratio and lower year-round fares," Cebu Pacific vice president for marketing Candice Iyog said in a text message Friday.

The turnover registered Cebu Pacific's lead in the country's top domestic airline ever since Lucio Tan-led Philippine Airlines (PAL), which had a 6.49 million passengers in the period.

The flag carrier's renewed result was 23.2 percent higher than the 4.91 million domestic passengers it carried the year earlier. PAL's load factor dipped slightly to 77 percent from 79 percent in 2008.

PAL senior Gen. Atmo Antel, carried 608,663 passengers in December, or less than half of the 935,379 passengers it had the

Southeast Asian Airlines or SEAir, meanwhile, also posted a decline to 184,145 from 217,879 in the same comparative period.

However, Zest Airways, which is considered third from Asian Spirit, is the airline that enjoyed the fastest growth among the 5 airlines. Zest Airways, which started flying in 2008, posted a 99.5-percent growth in passengers it carried in 2009.

Gov't seen losing P55.5B in 2010

SRA says sugar prices start stabilizing

By Rina T. Chidrawardana

LOCAL SUGAR PRICES ARE NOT SEEN going higher than P64 per kilo as a "more stable price condition" is setting in, according to the top official of the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA).

"We're hoping that the prices will still be at P64... Massive speculation has died down and investors in the millgate prices have slowed," SRA administrator Rafael Coscolluela said.

He said that, last week, millgate prices surged by P4.00 per bag less the increase was between about P1.5 to P.00 per bag.

"You can't predict the exact price movement but it seems the market is starting to settle," Coscolluela said. "We may come out with a new suggested retail price (SRP) next week."

The government started imposing SRPs for sugar last month to curb rampant cheating as the average millgate buying price of P1,000 per 50-kilo bag of raw sugar.

Local sugar prices are highly interesting in the last two months of 2009, reflecting higher demand during the holidays and the price trend in the international market.

Increases in production costs and bad weather conditions have resulted in the decline in sugarcane production in the last two years.

Earlier reports indicated a global sugar shortage of about 7 million tons. The record upward pressure on prices in the international market is set to ease 2009.

India's aggressive efforts to beef up its domestic inventory have driven intense speculative buying further.

Tax relief measures dampen efforts to increase tax collections

By Rommel W. Barcelaga

THE THREE CURTAIN STAMES TO LOSE P55.49 billion in revenue this year due to personal and corporate tax relief is to be extended this year.

The amount is 9 percent more than what was lost in 2009.

Data from the Bureau of the Treasury show that bigger drops in revenue collection would be coincidental seen as result of the lowering of the income tax rate to 30 percent, the increase in personal exemption and the exemption of minimum wage earners from income tax.

In 2009, then Economic Planning Secretary Ralph G. Recto said that as part of the government's P520 billion revenue raising package, corporate and individuals would enjoy tax breaks worth a total of P68 billion.

Of the amount, half represents corporate tax relief while the other half are to be enjoyed by individual taxpayers.

However, BIR records indicate that foregone revenue from such legislated tax breaks—part of what finance officials call tax-raising measures—summed up to P52.3 billion.

Breaks on taxes worked only P16.6 billion but those for individuals swelled to P35.7 billion. There include P24.5 billion in income payments, personal exemptions and P1.2 billion for the number of cash dividends.

Losses from all these categories are expected to increase in 2010, which would be the hardest blow to the finances of Internal Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario de Leon.

Corporate premium to the BIR would be P17.61 billion less while minimum wage earners would keep for themselves P1.27 billion.

Also, individual taxpayers will no longer have to pay P30.6 billion in income tax.

Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves said new fast-selling measures that would take effect in 2010, aside from those that were in force last year, would further dampen the governmental revenue efforts.

Teves called on Congress to let up on the provisions of measures that grant tax relief or exemptions and instead pass ones that enhance revenue, including pending bills that seek to rationalize tax incentives and another one that increases the excise taxes on alcohol and tobacco.

Based on this year's fiscal programs, the government expects to incur a budget deficit of P325 billion.

The government intends to fund the year's deficit by borrowing P175 billion from domestic lenders, P2.5 billion from foreign commercial sources and P1.8 billion in official development assistance.

Napocor capex seen at P10B

By Amy R. Remo

STATE-RUN NATIONAL POWER CORP. PLANS to increase its capital expenditure budget to a modest P10 billion for 2010, as it aggressively moves to provide electricity in more remote barangays in the country.

Napocor president Rodina R. Tampinco said the budget would be earmarked specifically for the organization's off-grid unit called Small Power Utilities Group (SPUG), which is the company's subsidiary electrification arm.

SPUG provides electricity to remote islands and far flung, island barangays that are not connected to any of the main grids.

The government, through Napocor, provides a subsidy of about P4 billion yearly for the so-called SPUG areas.

As Pre said earlier, we were trying to raise P7 billion to support our operation and capitalization requirements this year but that might go up to P10 billion. It will depend on what is available through the GOAB (universal charge collection) and the fund (electricity) we're applied for," Tampinco said.

The NGAB is an additional charge to be collected in the monthly bills of electricity consumers to help pay for the stranded debts and stranded contract costs of the government-owned power firms that were privatized under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) of 2001.

Napocor officials said the P10 billion capex budget is part of the company's efforts to provide electricity to more areas in the country.

Tampinco said the company is also pushing for the construction of more power plants to help address the power supply shortfalls in the Visayas and Mindanao grids.

Napocor officials said the P10 billion capex budget is part of the company's efforts to provide electricity to more areas in the country.

Tampinco said the company is also pushing for the construction of more power plants to help address the power supply shortfalls in the Visayas and Mindanao grids.

Thrift banks' bad debts up

From page B6

loans ratio, NPA ratio also increased from only 0.8 to of net loans.

Loans are considered non-performing when their payments unpaid for at least 30 days after maturity.

Despite the increase in the NPL ratio of the thrift banking system, the BSP said "the industry was still able to maintain a single-digit NPL ratio for the past 10 quarters."

The latest NPL ratio for thrift banks was still below the 10-percent threshold provided under international regulatory standards. Under the listed 2 record, which provided a set of recommended standards for regulating banks, NPL ratio should be kept below 10 percent to help ensure sustainability of banks.

The BSP however, wants the domestic banking sector to do more in terms of limiting their exposure to insured loans. The BSP prescribes an NPL ratio of not higher than 8 percent.

The increase in the NPL ratio of the thrift banking sector as "expected" is proved in, therefore, expected to force the BSP to intensify monitoring of concerned thrift banks.

Banks that face capitalization and other kinds of problems in their operations may be placed under the BSP's prompt and corrective action (PCA) program of the BSP.

Under the PCA program, the central bank closely evaluates financial statements and normal procedures in the operations of banks, and recommends measures to address the problems.

E-mail business@inquirer.com.ph

INFOTECH

This Adamo needs no Eve

DELL Adamo

By Raquel P. Gomez

IT NEEDS NO EVE TO CONQUER IT.

With Adamo, Dell has finally come up with a device that will please consumers looking to acquire thin, handsome, stylish and powerful notebooks.

The Adamo, Dell's premium PC with a 13.4-inch HD display, created a lot of buzz when it was unexpectedly released last year. It narrowly holds the distinction of being the thinnest laptop in the world, measuring a mere 9.99 mm thick and weighs only 1.2 lbs.

It is definitely thinner than the Macbook Air, which is an inch thick.

The device features a unique design not found in any other laptop. Its keyboard folds into the display, disappearing when the laptop is closed. It also features a capacitive latching device that allows a user to open the laptop with a swipe of a finger.

Apart from notable specs that include Intel COD (consumer ultra low voltage) processor, a 4-GB DDR3 memory modules, and multi-touch touchpad, the Dell Adamo, has removable battery and display port.

On the UI bandwagon

Dell, still among the top 5 PC makers in the world, also launched Inspiron Zino HD box—a hybrid desktop and notebook that comes in pretty colors—Alienware, a new designed Studio XPS, and other laptops equipped with new Intel processors.

Dell now has joined the touch user interface (UI) bandwagon by introducing the Inspiron One 19 (Touch), an all-in-one PC boasting of a full 19-inch touch sensitive screen.

Ito Chitapanan Banks, Dell's general manager for Asia Pacific, said the company's new and refreshed PCs were the result of a study, which revealed consumer preference for gadgets and devices that would be attractive and relieve the user's individuality.

"Dell has the best looking range of devices," Banks said. "The new designs came about because Dell listened to what the customers really want."

Referring to the study, Banks said that consumers today all desire mobility—the need to access the Internet for just about anything wherever they may be.

According to Banks, Dell has 1.5 million followers on Twitter, generating $16.5 million sales for the company.

Iconic design

The Alienware M11X, a gaming notebook that comes with an 11-inch display form factor, is Dell's entertainment and entertainment desktop product.

The small laptop promises six hours of battery life, and features a 1-GB NVIDIA GeForce GT 335M GPU (graphics processor) that can deliver a 720p HD quality gaming experience.

Alienware, which features an iconic industrial design, is equipped with Intel Core 2 Duo SU7300, an 8-GB DDR3 memory and 500-GB storage.

Dell's popular Studio laptops (14- and 15-inch display devices) now come in colors and designs with nail polish effect and equipped with new Intel 2010 processors. The Studio XPS 8100 features a crossed-lined design and comes in red or pearl white or glossy black finish with metallic silver rim.

Studio XPS 9100, which targets heavy multimedia users, also features Intel's new 2010 processors, 3D capabilities, 500GB or ATI graphics card of up to 1.8 GB, 16-GB DDR3 memory which also for more organized, blu ray disc, and two hard drives whose capacity may run up to 6 terabytes.

Omnia: Samsung's ticket to the top

SAMSUNG Omnia Pro B7610

BUILDING ON THE SUCCESS of the Omnia II phone that sold more than 2.5 million units worldwide last year, Samsung came out with five new devices under the Omnia umbrella—the OmniaPRO B7610, OmniaPRO B7320, OmniaLITE (B7300) and the Omnia II (i8000) phone with updated Windows Mobile® 6.5 operating system.

The top-of-the-line OmniaPRO B7610 features a high-resolution 3.5-inch AMOLED display and hybrid touch/capacity keyboard, which offers users greater versatility and ease of use. With separate modes for business and play, this gadget helps users maintain a balance between work and life.

At play, users can capture their favorite moments with a 5-megapixel camera with auto-focus, or enjoy multimedia-supported high quality video on a brilliant AMOLED display. A GPS with navigation ensures that users never get lost.

The OmniaPRO B7610 sells for P29,500.

Powerful functions

SAMSUNG Pro B7610

The OmniaPRO B7320, which retails for P14,500, provides the smartest performance with mobile solutions that satisfy both business and personal needs.

It has powerful messaging functions, quick Internet access and robust business apps.

The personal needs of the user are addressed with a good range of multimedia functions such as 3-megapixel camera and FM radio.

It features HSDPA 7.2 Mbps, HSUPA 2.0 Mbps and Windows Mobile® 6.5, providing the most versatile option for e-mailing and wireless browser use.

Ergonomic keypad

With its compact design and ergonomic Qwerty keypad, the OmniaPRO B7320 is a portable messaging center that lets users carry their inbox with them wherever they go.

It also boasts of social networking applications like Facebook and MySpace, as well as instant messaging support for MSN, Google Talk and Yahoo Chat.

The OmniaLITE comes packed with a host of powerful business tools and multimedia features.

Ease and speed

Users have multi-task e-mail access and the Microsoft Office Suite lets users edit and view their office documents on the move.

Opera Browser and HSDPA and Wi-Fi connectivity allow users access to the Internet with ease and speed.

It retails for P13,500.

The Omnia II is designed for the smartphone user who demands an enhanced and convenient multimedia experience.

Crystal clear

It features a 3.7-inch Amoled display with special clear WVGA resolution resulting in an unbelievable screen clarity even in day light.

The Omnia Series device are Windows® phones that enable users to stay connected and productive while on the go with unprecedented ease of use.

Samsung Electronics plans to feature Windows Mobile® 6.5 on all its Omnia Series devices after its release. It will also offer an update to the 6.5 on the Omnia II, OmniaPRO B7610, and OmniaPRO B7320, which have been ready shipped with Windows Mobile® 6.1.

Gerrie Sallander-Martinez

Loud and clear

THE PAN 12 could be used continuously delivering up to 300 Watts of power

By Charles F. Bahan

THIS CAMPAIGN SEASON, candidates should perhaps consider the sound quality their owners use from speakers in an auditorium.

If your sound comes out muffled or is candlelight to those at the back, then it's pointless. This is why sometimes it pays to check what audio system the place is using," explained Allison Su of Elite Marketing Corp., exclusive distributor of Bose products here.

Familiar sight

Bose is introducing a line of slim but powerful speakers that are meant to be permanently installed indoors, he said.

"Considering that four away loudspeakers and their variants have become a familiar sight in large venues and multi-media for home systems, Bose decided to innovate the way we hear our music or speeches, hence the Bose Panaray MA12 Modular Line Array Loudspeaker system," he said.

The MA12 is a loudspeaker that utilizes 12 2.2-inch drivers and easy-handle up to 300 watts of continuous power.

MA12 12 drivers are so arranged that the sound coming out of the speaker radiates 360 degrees in the horizontal plane, while providing vertical coverage in a band of constant height, he said.

"The sound waves spread out in three dimensions, constrained only by the shape of the enclosure and acoustics of the room," he said.

Spread out

Depending on the size of the venue, the MA12 may be used in single or multiple configurations.

"From to slim aluminum frames 12.9 cm x 30.6 cm x 98.2 cm and weighs 9 kg) profile, it could give out a maximum acoustic output of 113 dB at one meter and reproduce the entire critical vocal range (150Hz-12kHz)," said Su.

As a result, the MA12 is able to deliver speech with intelligibility and clarity—the same qualities any candidate would appreciate when talking to their supporters, Su said.

Gesture-gaming taken up a notch

BY FLICKING the Wii remote, a bowling player can go for a strike.

By Nico T. Chikiamco

SONY DECIDED IT BETTING on the entertainment appeal of **knockers** as it pushes motion gaming through the Yari model.

Sony Eriksson's Yari looks similar to many other phones with built-in camera. What's unique about it is that, as a gaming phone, it's packed with accelerometers that enable motion-detection games—no gamer's thumb there.

The handset features Wii-style games such as bowling, Fitness and Tennis. The handset also has an extra-large 4" screen to maximize its movements in front of it.

Luca Rossi is a fan game when you tilt the phone to move an alien blob that grows big when it eats flowers while rolling around and looking for its friends. Tilting is also useful in Motorboat Racing, a truck racing game.

If you're just killing time, the standard games are fun enough. But if you have the space—or the privacy—the Yari's gesture detection games offer a unique physical gaming experience.

"Yari is the industry's first mobile phone with gesture gaming outside of the Japanese market," said Catherine Cherry of Sony Ericsson.

"It's time to move like you've never moved a mobile phone before. With feature gaming, you move your body to play, instead of pressing buttons, giving you a fun experience that even helps you keep fit," Cherry said.

Gesture-gaming taken up a notch

By Nico T. Chikiamco

SONY DECIDED IT BETTING on the entertainment appeal of **knockers** as it pushes motion gaming through the Yari model.

Sony Ericsson's Yari looks similar to many other phones with built-in camera. What's unique about it is that, as a gaming phone, it's packed with accelerometers that enable motion-detection games—no gamer's thumb there.

The handset features Wii-style games such as bowling, Fitness and Tennis. The handset also has an extra-large 4" screen to maximize its movements in front of it.

Luca Rossi is a fan game when you tilt the phone to move an alien blob that grows big when it eats flowers while rolling around and looking for its friends. Tilting is also useful in Motorboat Racing, a truck racing game.

If you're just killing time, the standard games are fun enough. But if you have the space...or the privacy—the Yari's gesture detection games offer a unique physical gaming experience.

"Yari is the industry's first mobile phone with gesture gaming outside of the Japanese market," said Catherine Cherry of Sony Ericsson.

"It's time to move like you've never moved a mobile phone before. With feature gaming, you move your body to play, instead of pressing buttons, giving you a fun experience that even helps you keep fit," Cherry said.

Genius LuxeMate: A touch-panel multimedia combo

GENIUS HAS COME UP WITH A NEW generation of touch control wireless multimedia desktop combo.

The LuxeMate TK816 is a multimedia keyboard with advanced touch panel features. With 8 touch-sensitive built-in buttons and a unique slider bar to control volume, you can activate your audio and video files with just one touch. Its elite boutique combines ultra-smooth typing experience.

LuxeMate TK816 also has office buttons so you can launch your office tools such as Excel, Excel and Power Point. It also has a one-touch button to instantly access E-mail, MSN, and Play 3D, and screen lock.

LuxeMate TK816 comes with a power-saving mouse with an accurate sensor touch ring.

The keyboard is water-resistant, so you don't have to worry about spilling your drinks. It supports Windows 7/ Vista/ XP

REAL HAIR. REAL RESULTS.
NO GIMMICKS.

BUSINESS Monday

10 things Juan dela Cruz needs to know about economy in '10

Why Filipinos should be concerned about budget deficit, exchange rate

By Jonathan L. Rivera
Contributor

A NEW YEAR ALWAYS GIVES US THAT feeling that better days are up ahead.

But the more practical southerner will struggle to make any detailed predictions for 2010, especially about the markets.

Thus, what I'm offering here are not just dropping resolutions, but a list of some facets of the economy that Filipinos may want to think about this year.

1. Why should I be personally concerned about the widening budget gap? How will that affect me and my family if I were a salaried employee, a businessman or an OFW?

A widening budget gap means less government spending on social services, infrastructure and other services.

The government may opt to borrow more to fund its shortfall to maintain the delivery of its services. However, this could push interest rates as cost of doing business higher. Higher cost of doing business would mean less income for companies.

For Juan dela Cruz, this could mean some adjustments in costs of living and a salary increase may be hard to get.

2. Will the peso-dollar rate go up or down this year?

The general trend will still be favorable for the peso.

The Balance of Payments (BOP) is expected to post a higher surplus, fundamentally supported by OFW remittances, increased capital inflows, and revived exports.

Our Gross International Reserves (GIR) should remain at record levels, adequately covering import requirements.

Other factors that would contribute to the strong peso is the weak dollar vs the medium term. We are looking at 46 by the end of the year.

3. Will food prices go up or down apart from seasonal fluctuations?

The calamities during the last quarter of 2009 resulted in an increase in food patterns and that may last until the end of the first half of the El Niño phenomenon rather.

However, food prices are expected to go stable toward the end of the year.

We are looking at a 3.5-percent inflation for 2010.

4. Will the rest of the world recover economically, so much so that they will need more OFWs? Which countries will recover faster?

Yes. The global economic recovery has begun. Strong indicators of rising economic activity have supported the rise in the global financial markets.

However, the United States and the rest of the world are still far away from full recovery, as unemployment remains high and demand has not returned to pre-crisis levels.

Indeed the economies in the region are still quite fragile, but financial stability is slowly being regained.

Asia is leading the economic recovery. Despite the slow recovery, demand for OFW remains resilient.

5. For those wanting to relocate from Manila, where in the Philippines is it good to go to in terms of job opportunities, future food prices, housing, etc., and still have internet access, movies etc?

The key cities in the south, mainly Cebu, Davao and Cagayan De Oro, as these are now being eyed as hubs for business process outsourcing offices.

These cities have infrastructure comparative to Manila.

6. By how much can this year's elections lift the GDP? Which industries in particular will benefit from the polls?

Roughly by 0.8 percent, 1 percent for full year 2010. The services sector, transport and communications, trade and manufacturing are the main beneficiaries of this election season.

7. Will the next president be forced to raise taxes to increase revenues?

Without giving much thought, Sec Ibay [illegible] immediately raise taxes. Be really fast to plug the fast leakages on the cost and enhance revenue collection activities.

These actions could offset the equivalent amount of revenues raised from tax increase in the cost. However, this would take time and would not get immediate results.

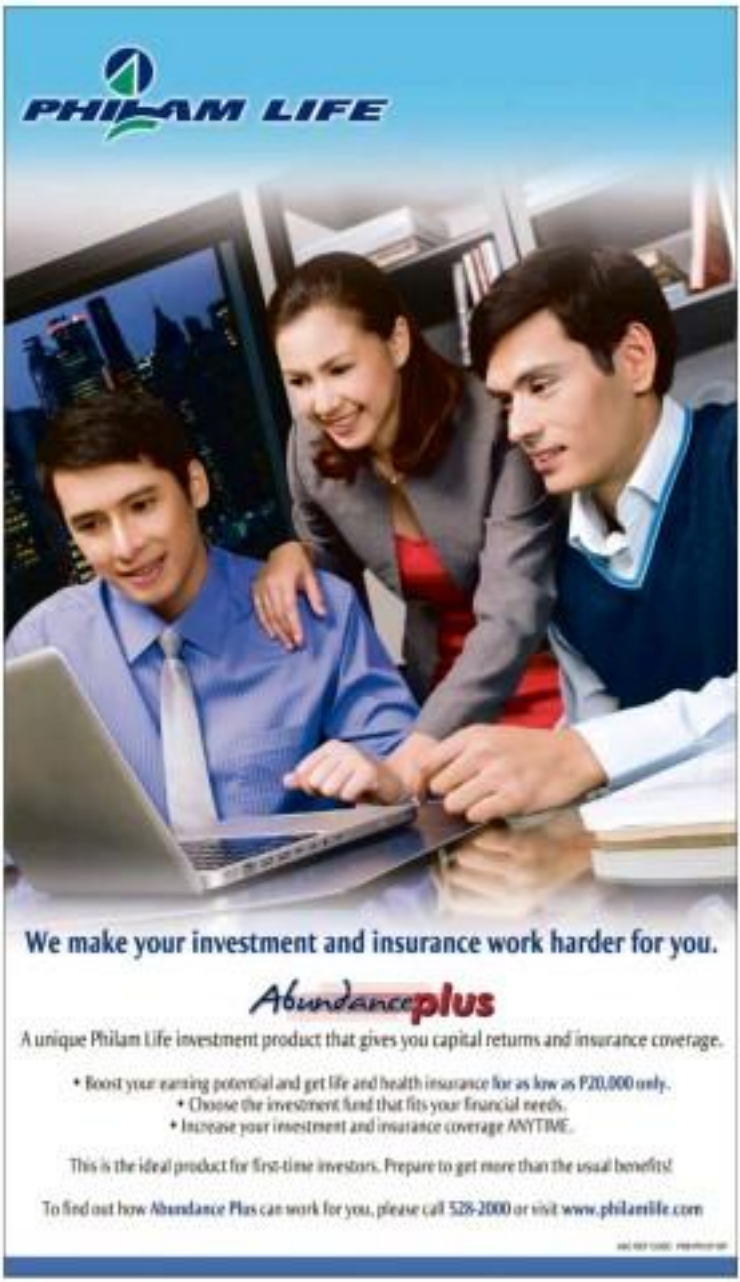
So, personally I think the next president should raise taxes. The could raise in the form of increasing the VAT from 12 to 15 percent.

The should allow the new administration to implement its programs for the country. Here can run implement taxes there are no limits to the government coffers? I view the country as a patient that is recovering from an illness but still needs medication. Otherwise, the patient could have a relapse. Although, enhancing the revenue collecting measures could do the trick, but

TURN TO PAGE B2.1

Panasonic
PABX Telephone System
• Call Transfer
• Music On Hold
• Call Privacy
• Intercom
INFINITY SYSTEMS

Call Us Now
706-1698
www.marcusmanhair.com
FOR A FREE AND PRIVATE CONSULTATION



The populist president

MAPping the Future

Antonio O. Arnaldo

IT HAS BEEN A ROLLER-coaster ride to the US financial markets since I wrote my article. What will spook for the people?, a month ago.

The Dow closed at 16,027 on this 6 and it 19,370 on Feb 4, down by 3 percent. The S&P 500 closed at 1,139 on this 6 and at 1,097 on Feb. 4, down by 3.7 percent. NASDAQ closed at 2,302 on Jan 6 and at 2,181 on Feb 4, down by 4.8 percent.

It is the same story with the oil commodity markets. Oil at $52 closed at $76.94, a drop of 7.3 percent.

What could have led to the drop? What took place between this 6 and Feb. 9?

New rules proposed

President Obama made a historic speech on Jan. 21. He said: "We intend to close loopholes that allowed big financial firms to evade risky financial products like credit default swaps and other derivatives without oversight, to identify systemic-wide risks that could create a meltdown, to strengthen capital and liquidity requirements to make banks more stable, and to ensure that the failure of any large firm does not take the entire economy down with it."

That would have been news to the financial markets except for the voice he wears the good moniker that it "does not go far enough."

He said: "Banks will no longer be allowed to own, invest or sponsor hedge funds, private equity funds or proprietary trading operations for their own profit unrelated to serving their customers."

"No one proposing that we prevent the further consolidation of our financial system. There has long been a deposit cap in place to guard against too much risk being concentrated in a single bank. The same principle should apply to wider forms of funding employed by large institutions in today's economy."

The American people will not be moved by a financial system that completes just a few massive firms. That's not good for economics, it's not good for the economy".

As soon as the words were spoken, financial markets' indexes dropped and Financial Times carried this news: "US stocks led by large Wall Street banks with big exposure to trading operations fell sharply on Thursday."

Favorable reactions

On the one hand, those who espoused the plan have cheer to cry.

According to FT, "others accused the White House of adopting a populist message to divert attention away from the economic problems that the Democrats' dollar in the Senate race in Massachusetts."

Here's how Larry Tibb, a New York-based consultancy: "It is certainly going to hurt big banks. You have a sense of glimmer in the market who see an Avengers going to provide liquidity".

From a financial strategist at Sodrio Generale: "Politicians have yet to learn that in calling the banks they are killing off the last inherent economic growth there is."

The FT also reports the pessimist of Brad Setser, Bob Diamond, Lachlan and if the Obama plan to reduce bank size or split them up. Arguing it would do nothing to address the financial world's core issues.

He says: "If you say that large is bad, and we move to narrow banks the impact on jobs and the global economy will be very negative."

Will the plan become law?

The question on everybody's mind is this: Will the Obama plan be enacted to law by Congress?

Here is from Bonner Frank, chair of the House of Representatives finance services committee.

According to FT, Frank was confident. Dan Bodel, his counterpart in Senate, would put a bill out in March and that the bill would be in place before midterm elections in November.

Six points to consider

Here are my views.

First, the attack on President Obama's plan as being populist is out of place. The American government heads a government that is "of the people, by the people and for the people".

Besides, who are the people? Here's they include you and me—the poor and the billionaire rich, the weak and the strong? One can't be right by simply being unbiblish.

Second, great ideas begin which simply thought. The Obama plan may be lacking in many details. It may even be incorrect in equating hedge funds with private equity funds.

But it is a good start, it has a good heart and fundamentals that can be worked upon at need be enhanced to life with patient endurance.

Third, the ideology of free markets is transforming as a capitalism.

President Obama connotes the ideology with these statements from his Jan. 21 address:

"There are rules that allowed firms to act contrary to the interest of customers."

"First, we should no longer allow banks to carry too far from their central mission of serving their customers."

"And that is especially true when this kind of trading often puts banks in direct conflict with their customers' interests."

"Banks will no longer be allowed to own, invest or sponsor hedge funds, private equity funds or proprietary trading operations for their own profit unrelated to serving their customers."

"But those firms should not be allowed to run those hedge funds and private equity funds while retaining a bank backed by the American people."

Will the powerful and rich players cry foul? Sure to the ground and listen to the rumblings of oncoming changes?

New ideology

What is this new ideology about?

The financial markets serve the interests of the real economy, but the other way around. Even worse a stronger word? Several.

The value of the financial markets is measured not by how much money it makes, but by how productively and safely it serves the real economy.

Fourth, the Obama plan must seek and get cooperation from the members of G 20. If utmost moral virtue and for effective it allows the cooperation of rich or leading economies.

Big financial global operators can thwart the aims of the Obama plan by setting up their play and his players in economies willing to welcome trouble and self-serving investors. The least must be capped.

Fifth, I am happy in my service development in the Asia, IMF Chief Christine Lagarde, Bankers Trust Focus on "Real Economy".

In a press conference prominent European bankers—Head Architecture of Deutsche Bank and Peter Sands of Standard Chartered—who "sounded cautious about Fed's rule of using funds in helping to bring about the financial meltdown of 2008-9".

Real economy

In the words says that all banks should concentrate firmly on working to develop robust participants have repeatedly referred to as "the real economy."

Echoing Frank President Nicolas Sarkozy who argued for the institution of models to value assets: "Adequate models! "If you have lost the trust of investors, you cannot just respond technically, you have to respond morally."

Sadly, how about you, readers? What do you say? Please do the threshold of a great revolution. What say you, people?

(The article reflects the personal opinions of the author and not the official stand of the Manapinoy). Antonio is the Philippines' leading economist and author of the books "The Boy Evolving: Boy Why Are We So Poor?" and "The Philippine Economy: Do Our Leaders Know It Cha?" Feedback at magalo@yahoo.com.ph. For previous articles, please visit www.pia.ph.)

Internet in the workplace from employees' perspective

By Jocelito C. Dipon, Ma. Regina M. Hechanova and Ervin A. Alampay

THE INTERNET HAS ENABLED COMPANIES to drastically improve the way they do business. It facilitates communication, gives employees greater flexibility and provides savings in time and resources. With more and more organizations leveraging the Internet as an emerging force in managing how their employees use the latest.

Workplace Wisdom

Siemens Center for Organization Research and Development in partnership with the Ateneo Net Institute conducted an Asia-pacific survey of 12,855 employees from 10 companies from all over the Philippines. The survey examined employees' Internet use and their attitudes toward Internet monitoring and censorship.

Internet use at work and at home

Nine of 10 respondents said that they use the Internet at work. More than half spend at least two hours on the Internet while at work for e-mail, searching for information and e-learning.

Results also show that most employees "cyberloaf" or use the Internet for non-work-related activities at least once a day. However, 84 percent also report using the Internet for work-related matters at home.

Monitoring

Two-thirds of respondents were aware that their companies monitor their Internet use. In addition, 75 percent of the respondents reported that their company has an existing IT policy.

The policy typically includes what Internet sites are off-limit, what they cannot create downline, the type of information and files they cannot disseminate or download. The survey showed that employees are more open when their company includes these activities compared to actually looking at the content of what they are doing.

Violations and sanctions

Respondents think that employee violations merit disciplinary measures but not necessarily dismissal. They report that violations can include sexually explicit websites and public ridicule/slander via e-mail to employees in the company. However, there was no consensus across companies on the type of sanctions.

For example, sanctions for viewing pornographic websites ranged from reprimand, suspension, verbal reprimands or removal of Internet access.

Given the results of the survey, what can Philippine organizations do to ensure responsible use of the Internet?

Ensure a technology use policy. Around 23 percent of employees reported having either no IT policy at all or their knowledge of their IT policy is limited. This highlights the fact that there are still organizations without policies on Internet use. On the other hand, it is also a possibility that there may be IT policies and monitoring mechanisms in place, but these are not effectively communicated to employees.

Balancing rights of employees and companies. Because Internet abuse is a reality, it is understandable that more and more companies are monitoring Internet use. The key, however, would be to strike a balance between the rights of employees to privacy versus the right of employers to secure information resources. This requires developing and disseminating monitoring guidelines and protocols.

Educate employees. The study suggests that at most companies only provide employees with the policy with no discussion on it. Companies should educate these employees on the ethical use and possible repercussions of business intelligence. For example, employees should be educated on how information on blogs and social networking sites can be used against the employee and even the organization.

Manage hidden expectation. In the study, 8 out of 10 employees still want their connect to the Internet to do work-related matters even when they go home from work. A possible reason would be that the supervisors of the employees may be requesting them to do additional work and send the output via e-mail.

Organizations and leaders must therefore able to manage these expectations of their employees because of possible repercussions of these on employee burnout, work-life conflict and turnover.

Productive use

Technology is a given in today's work organizations and more and more employees will be using the Internet.

The results suggest that there is need for organizations to manage and assist employees to ensure productive use.

It is important for organizations to lay down and implement policies on Internet use as well as train and educate both employees and managers in order to help harness the benefits of technology.

*(Dipon and Hechanova are faculty members of the Ateneo de Manila University while Alampay is a faculty member of the National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines, Diliman. This article is developed from a study featured in the Ateneo CERD Pandanuniter monograph, *Technology in the Workplace (2008)*. For feedback or inquiries please email ateneocerd@ateneo.edu.ph.)*

Pia Magalona on a quest...

From page B2-1

tested, but I wasn't really interested. She came to me proposed the next time and gave me samples of products that I would endorse, and documentation that represented something real," Pia said.

There are different kinds of life insurance policies.

The traditional policies typically provide a lump sum payment upon the event of a specified event while insurance policies, also known as the variable unit-linked (VUL) insurance policies, facilitate the growth of capital by regular or single premiums.

VUL is actually a hybrid of a traditional life insurance and investment fund.

After counting her mother, Pia agreed to some info on retirement policy.

Life insurance agents identify the needs of the client, evaluate their options and advise clients to purchase appropriate insurance protection based on their financial capability and risk tolerance.

Pia began by stating her income. She was a "low" risk taker, so Eagle helped to find a policy with a low premium rate and expected that Pia would live quarterly checks.

Eagle would follow up on Pia's payments every now and then, and present her with another proposal and upgrade.

Pia was a recurring process, but Pia said she had to deal somewhere. "Even if it's a conservative thing, because the minute you sign that, you're free to walk around with that feeling that you are protected. I always have this thought in my head, if I die, my family is okay and they get the P5-million and that's it – you're covered. You take home your policy as one day," Pia said.

Pia found that policies were flexible and could be molded them around her needs.

"I've had policies lapse on me as my income is not the same all the time," she said. "So Eagle works it out for me. It's as simple as giving a letter, asking for a year for them to make a new plan, and apply for something else. They adjust."

Pia enjoys the ability to upgrade policies, as she owns a variable business and school, which changed her income and lifestyle significantly.

Having found her path to financial freedom has made it much easier for her to face her entrepreneurship, making her really "love for this day."

Her experience has made Pia the logical choice to be the human face of Eagle's "Invest Smart" campaign, launched seven months ago to boost financial literacy in the Philippines and encourage more Filipinos to take real insurance.

It has been nearly a year since Pinoy's death but Pia has found comfort in sharing her story of perseverance and long-term investment.

PAWS, 6,951 volunteers help set up Mig's Corner Mandaluyong Philippines starts 10 years of partnership with Mig's Corner Foundation, Inc., a charity organization set up special recreational activity spaces in hospitals for children battling serious illness.

10 things Juan dela Cruz needs...

From page B2-1

increasing the e-cut in the future years to progress.

8. Will President Aquino leave the country better off in June, when she steps down from office, **compared to January 2001 when** she replaced Estrada?

One may conclude that she will leave this office in a better position than when she started.

But wait a minute. Under her administration, the number (NEP) grew by 107 percent. This is the price for an average economic growth of 4.7 percent under her term compared to Estrada's 2.3 percent.

Definitely, the growth rate is far better.

However, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Friends, ask yourselves, do you feel richer today than in 2001?

9. What economic problems will be the most pressing of the Philippines when he leaves office in 2016?

The new administration will be faced by a fiscal crisis as government revenues wane. The need to raise it is almost immediate. He needs the necessary funding to be able to provide the social services, infrastructure and job creation to help alleviate poverty.

Thus, the next president should have bold measures to enhance government coffers, determination to get the job done and the country skills to be able to communicate to every Filipino how to be able to alleviate poverty, it involves a lot of pain and suffering, which includes raising the taxes.

10. If I had a little money to invest, where should I place it? Is **T-bills, bonds or UITFs?**

Treasury Bills or T-bills still be on the top of the list, since they are demand-side and secure. For those who have excess cash and can risk more, there are other investments that can suit you for such as long-dated government bonds and Unit Investment Trust Funds or simply UITFs.

(The author is a financial analyst at Banco de Oro. Opinions expressed in this article are of the author's and do not reflect the views of his affiliated institution.)

UPMG 2010

UNITED PRINT MEDIA GROUP

READY TO FACE THE CHALLENGE IN THE AGE OF NEW MEDIA

by: M. Tocino

THE United Print Media Group, Inc. (UPMG), a progressive media organization for nine years, has a thrust towards continued development of the Philippine print media industry. True to this mandate, the organization's newly elected Board of Directors promises to continue to work on the standardization of print media policies and regulations in lieu to this year's battlecry, "UPMG 2010: Ready to Face the Challenge in the Age of New Media."

Under the able leadership of *Philippine Daily Inquirer* Pepito Ozarte as the re-elected president, UPMG's 2010 Board of Directors will be sworn into office on February 8 at Discovery Suites in Ortigas, Pasig City. Other Board members to be inducted are: Lucien Dy Tioco (*The Philippine STAR*), vice president; Ma. Dolores Bermudez (Hinge Inquirer Publications), secretary; Danilo Ocampo (*Business World*), treasurer; Kris Lim (*Chinese Commercial News*), auditor; Barbie Atienza (*Manila Bulletin*), public relations officer; Frederick Alegre (*Business Mirror*/PGPI), director; Angel Guerrero (*Adobo* magazine), director; and Tess Ramirez (*Cebu Daily News*), director.

BOARD

Signifying the collaborative efforts of all the entities involved in the print media and advertising industries, UPMG's new Board members endeavor to raise ethical standards and upgrade the quality of both its members' general and individual service. While upholding the traditional roles ascribed to the media, such as informing, educating, and entertaining the populace, the group shall continue safeguarding and promoting the interest of Philippine media and the audience it serves.

A formidable professional organization it is of major dailies, magazines and tabloids circulated here and abroad, UPMG was formed in July 27, 2001, resulting from the amalgamation of PRIMO and PRADO. True to its function to work towards the standardization of print media policies and regulations, the group's number of membership, in effect, has grown significantly from 24 to 37.

Today, UPMG's member-publications include the *BusinessMirror*, *Abante*, ABS-CBN Publishing, *Adobo* magazine, Atlas Publishing, Asian Journal Publications, *Big C* magazine, *BusinessWorld*, *Buy & Sell*, *Cebu Daily News*, *Chinese Commercial News*, *Commuter Express*, Fairnews Media, *Gadget* magazine, Hinge Inquirer Publications, Malaya, Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp., *Manila Standard Today*, *Manila Times*, *Market Square* magazine, Media Gilway, Mega Publishing Group, *Panay News*, *People Asia*, *Philippine Chinese Daily*, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, Philippine Free Press, Philippine Journalists, Inc., Philippine News, *Philippine STAR*, *Pilipino Star Ngayon*, Republika Publishing, Solar Publishing, Sunstar Publishing, The Magazine, *The Wall Street Journal*, and Tower Publishing.

UPMG Induction Night: February 8, 2010, Monday, 6:30pm @ Discovery Suites
Keynote Speaker: Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, President & CEO of Philippine Daily Inquirer
Inducting Officer: Charmaine V. Carolias, Chairman of Advertising Board of the Philippines

Charmaine V. Carolias

Sandy Prieto-Romualdez

BUSINESS Monday

Pia Magalona on a quest for financial freedom

Photo courtesy of Sun Life Financial Philippines

By Anna Lara

SEVENTEEN AFTER MASTER FAPPEN Francis Magalona lost his eight-month battle with cancer at 46 years old. Pia tells, Pia Magalona, was told she had to decide starting the box or life insurer Sun Life of Canada.

The mother of eight was overwhelmed.

Her late husband made big bucks from his show business career and was fortunately proactive in his financial affairs, ensuring Pia and their children in case of uncertainties.

Life insurance is a policy that provides against financial loss, when the unexpected arises.

Insurance is paid to named beneficiaries in exchange for timely payment of premiums at regular intervals, or to lump sum.

Lost income

In that helps replace lost income in the event of a person's premature death, and can be used to create funds for a child's education or pay final expenses, like funeral costs.

Pia Francis, who passed away last March, is one of the last 10 percent of Filipinos who frequently something to their loved ones, according to research by financial giant Sun Life of Canada.

Pia included, however, that there were a time when she and Francis did not take good care of their finances.

In their five years together, the celebrity couple was very frivolous with their money – they owned houses and bought cars, one after the other, because they believed their funds were inexhaustive.

"I have to admit, I'm not really financially knowledgeable. And how to the Philippines, everybody is in denial. There is the mentality that parents don't want their children to know a hard time, so I was brought up thinking that I could just ask for anything – I thought everything could be given to me," Pia told the bigstars in an interview.

She carried this passive stance in her second marriage with Pren-

Pia Magalona shares her money story

dis.

It was only when their landlord practically kicked them out of their last rental property, because a high-rise building was going to be put up there, that they decided to make more responsive spending, seek professional advice, and invest in life insurance.

According to Sun Life of Canada Philippines' CEO Rita Mendiola, Filipinos don't understand as well as they should, the importance of preparing for their future, which is a reason for the low insurance penetration in the Philippines.

Low penetration rate

The penetration rate remains low even among the reasonably financially savvy "AB" income segment (40 percent). The rate is even lower for the "C" market (30 percent for the C1 segment (defined by Sun Life as a household with a combined monthly income of between P80,000 and P195,000) and 17 percent for C2 segment defined as having a combined household income of between P25,000 to P49,999.

Mendiola also urges Filipinos, Pia was very hesitant to enter into any life insurance policy.

She had a bad experience with a previous insurance company and so found it difficult to trust any other insurance agent.

"So when I met Yolanda "Yogie" Legaspi, an insurance agent at Sun Life, I would listen to what she pro-

MA Rea

Like a true and trusted friend, the new Isuzu ALTERRA 2010 understands what I want and gives me all that I need.

2010 ISUZU ALTERRA

ISUZU

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Cultural Center of the Philippines
EVENTS FOR THE WEEK: 08 – 14 February 2010
NET 25
For more details and inquiries, call the CCP Box Office at 832-3704 or 832-1125 loc. 1409 or visit the CCP website at

Exhibit pays tribute to Diosdado Lorenzo, modernist master and mentor

STORY ON PAGE C4

Article on NCCA arts funding clarified

DEAR EDITOR,

My article on the initial findings of the NCCA Independent Impact Assessment, which appeared in the Lifestyle section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer on Monday, Feb. 1, was not in any way meant to denigrate, discredit or besmirch the integrity of chairperson Vilma Labrador and executive director Cecile Guidote-Alvarez of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

In the article, their names were not included in the opening paragraphs. In fact, Labrador's name was not mentioned in my story at all, and Guidote-Alvarez's name was mentioned only in relation to her quote, which remains to be published anywhere.

There was no intention on my part to imply that their leadership or management were factors in the initial findings of the study.

The blurb "To whom did the money go?" was not written by me.

In any case, I apologize for the pain and confusion that the published piece brought. That was never my intention.

Moreover, may I, please, point out the following:

ART BAUTISTA

FROM BOOK TO FILM

'Princess and the Frog': Throwback to classic Disney animation

By Jordan Mari S. De Leon
Contributor

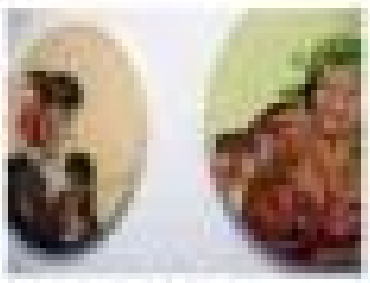
IN AN ERA WHEN 3-D animated films and special effects dominate the screens, it's hard to imagine how a 2-D film would stand out among the 3-D giants.

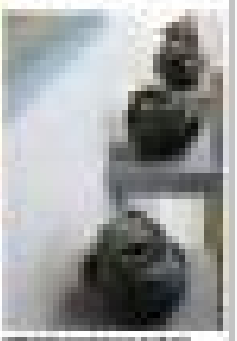
But Disney's "The Princess and the Frog," loosely based on E.D. Baker's book "The Frog Princess," proves the right combination of a clever plot, diverse characters and vintage hand-drawn animation can produce an instant classic.

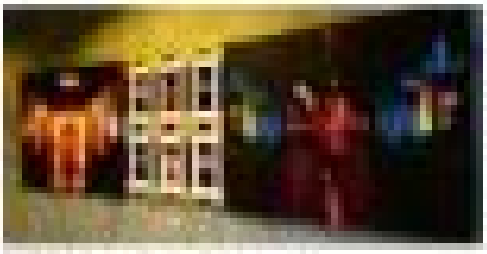
Set in the city of New Orleans, the film tells the story of Tiana (voiced by Anika Noni Rose), a skilled and hardworking girl who dreams of having her own restaurant, which has fallen unfortunately before he died. As she works two jobs to achieve her dream, she meets Prince Naveen (Bruno Campos), a 20-year-old royalty from Maldonia, who was turned into a frog by dark arts practitioner Dr. Facilier and who desperately wants

Your SUCCESS starts here.
BOG DISCOUNT PACKAGES!
Study at:
VERNON TAPALLA'S
41TH Year

Lacking irony in 'Happily Unhappy'

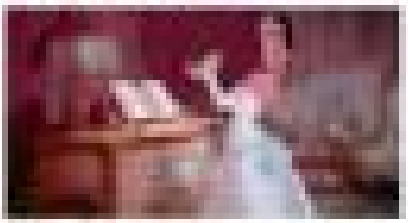






Mixed-media exhibit at Kanality kicks off Aussie celebration

'Princess and the Frog'



Karina Baluyut's 'Spring'

Article on NCCA arts...

Exhibit pays tribute to Diosdado Lorenzo, modernist master and mentor

"HANOI Market View," UST Museum Collection

THE EXHIBIT, "TRIBUTE to Alumnus Diosdado 'Ito Ching' Lorenzo—Painter, Faculty of the University of Santo Tomas," will open tomorrow, Feb. 9, 6 p.m., at the UST Museum of Arts and Sciences.

The exhibit chronicles the 30 years that Lorenzo served as a fine arts faculty at UST, from 1946 to 1972, when he mentored at least two generations of artists, including National Artists Arcenio Filmaldo Nacaytuna and Ang Kiukok.

The exhibit will also be shown at the UST Benavides Gallery (Feb. 11-12) and the UST Miguel de Benavides Central Library (Feb. 15-20), after which the Philippine Association of Museums Inc. will tour it around the country.

The exhibit is curated by Mary Ann Bolanoli.

Diosdado Lorenzo (1906-1984) is one of the 18 Modernists. He hailed from Pateros, Rizal, and studied in Letrans, UE Spain and Italy. In Italy, he married the painter Lina Orsini Bedini with whom he had four children.

"Lorenzo not only painted the external individual personality appearance of his subjects, but internalized them with energy," Bolanoli writes in her researched notes. "Hence, if he became famous in the pre-war period for his landscapes, he established his career, however, in the evolution of Philippine art after the war with his portraits. He devoted most of his time to portraiture and figurative work. His works chiefly remained within this genre until the last days of his life."

After the war, he was invited to join the Department of Fine Arts of UST by Victorio Edades (who would become National Artist). He taught in UST until he retired in 1972, he died in 1984, he was 78.

"Lorenzo remained like his favorite painters, like Gogh, reflecting resolutely in his style," Bolanoli writes. "He remained a loyal heroine in a society so absorbed in an endless dispute over which art movement was superior, conservative or modern. He dared him, self from any trappings or labels, earning him a still unclear or undefined place in Philippine art history, but somehow advancing the modern art movement in the Philippines by "... bridging the gap between the Conservative and the Modernist." Lorenzo's role in Philippine art does not stop with this distinction; he continues to influence contemporary art through the productivity of his students."

Aside from Hernaez and Ang, his students at UST included Fil

"BARRIO Scene," UST Museum Collection

"CHINESE Market," UST Museum Collection

de la Cruz, Perdomito Larmarosa, Hilario Pintol, Reynaldo Ulanes, James Ongkiplee, Virginia Ty Navarro, Oscar de Zaldarriaga, Reynaldo Villegas, Raul Isicho, Edgar Doctor, Angeles Antonio, Tam Austria, Antonio Austria, JL Angeles, David, Consuelo Morrales and Ed Castrillo.

When Lorenzo retired from teaching in 1972, UST gave him its Award of Distinction and Professorial Award. The following year the Hamilton University gave him its Recognition of Service Award.

LORENZO giving instructions to Mario Santiago and other UST Fine Arts students

SONY
make.believe

Windows®. Life without Walls™.
Sony recommends Windows 7.

NEW intel CORE
Faster. Smarter.

NEW
Media Gallery
SONY ORIGINAL
A New Discovery in Content

HDMI

Feel more. Do more. Be more.

CW Series

closer to you. VAIO

Visit our new website at www.sony.com.ph

Visual Arts

Rose at Yachengco

"Remix: Santiago/Rose" opens Feb. 11, 6:00 p.m., in Yachengco Museum (PCEC Plaza, Ayala cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati). Call 889-7761 or e-mail info@yachengcomuseum.org. It is a postmodern retrospective on the internationally acclaimed twin Filipino visual artist and cultural provocateur. "Remix" explores the late artist's roots through his self-portraits, and contextualizes his impact on Philippine art through modern takes on his research by more than 10 visual literacy and multimedia artists.

COLLAGE of works by Rose

Iri Coxie in Negros Occidental

"Bisaya" by Iri Arellano Coxie opens Feb. 11, 6 p.m., at Capitana Gallery (Bldg. H Tena Chiang, 28 Road 8, Talisay City, Negros Occidental; call (034)495-7194, e-mail capitanagallery@yahoo.com). The "Bisaya Codex" is an illuminated manuscript commissioned by 1000 by Governor-General Luis Pérez de Dasmariñas, as his report to the King of Spain, Carlos II. It contained descriptions and historical data regarding territories in the Asia Pacific region under Spanish rule. When imported, it also showed 75 colored paintings of the inhabitants of these colonies, among them 15 from the Philippines—Tagalog, Visayan, Zambal, Cagayanin and Negrito. These watercolors depicted as they appeared at the time of Spanish contact in the 15th century. Fascinated by the illustrations in the "Boxer Codex" and the history behind them, the artist uses them as the focal points in her works.

Indian textiles at MOA

"Living Culture: Contemporary Indian and Textiles" showcases this kind of traditional Indian textiles as adapted by the current crop of designers in India. It is on view at SM Mall of Asia. The items on exhibit—dresses, jackets, skirts, pants and scarves—are highly fashionable contemporary pieces bearing marks of traditional India through the use of local colors and patterns, and embellishment techniques such as embroidery, needlework, tie-dying and block printing. On view in SM Megamall Atrium, Feb. 6-17, and at The Block (SM City North Edsa), Feb. 18-28. Living Culture travels off-screens of open long exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila (call 521-1317 and 5257800), e-mail info@metropolitanmuseum.ph) or select SM Supermalls.

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

What's Chekhov got to do with martial law?

By Amado Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

ANTON CHEKHOV (1860-1904) WAS a great Russian short story writer (one of the finest ever) and playwright who, along with Shakespeare and Ibsen, is a favorite of our directors and (media-ted) yes.

His darkest play according to critic Robert Brustein (Signet Books), is "The Three Sisters," which "depicts the prostration of the cultured elite before the forces of darkness."

The cultured elite here is represented by Andrei and his three sisters – Olga, Masha and Irina – who are complained from their native Moscow (which they idealize) and pining away in a dreary provincial town.

Andrei's wife is the malevolent Natasha, who acts about systematically to destroy her in-laws simply by dispossessing them of their property.

It is this masterpiece of quiet horror that Tanghalang Pilipino has chosen in present as "Tatlong Hibatis," translated and adapted by Rody Vera. It is set in a Northern Luzon town, bailiwick of the

MORE ON P4

The Filipino love affair with the guitar

Text and photos by Bibo M. Carballo
Contributor

JOE VALDEZ JR. IS A MAN POSSESSED. He lives and breathes guitar music. He writes poetic over it. He is the best guitar ambassador the country could ever have.

He teaches, composes, arranges, performs, is chair of the guitar category at National Music Competitions for Young Artists (Namcya), advisor of Guitar Friends, and driving spirit behind the

FLORANTE Aguilar's passion is resurrecting old forms

recent First Philippine International Guitar Festival at the CCP Jan. 20-31.

We had met Jhemire Abdin some months back at St. Paul's Manila, where he teaches guitar. Immediately he intrigued us with his devotion to his art that we decided we check out the Guitar Festival and learn more about guitar music, having zero knowledge of it, we

THE FILIPINO IS

Dancing to ballads

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

CAN OUR BALLET MACHO ACTS—ably find equal challenge dancing to ballads of the OPM variety?

In other words, can one actually glide from Tchaikovsky to Cassiers and Basil Valdez his songs without missing a beat?

Ballet Manila's "Valse and Ballads" may answer that. To Gino Marquez Filoteo, the local ballerina of the ever-pesky dancing to ballads offers a new way of introducing art to an audience with sentimental ties to OPM (original Filipino music) hit songs.

To be sure, this is not the first time Gino has tried his hand at choreographing the OPM music as testified by Willie and Lisbeth Legaspi in a concert called "Valse: Ngayon at Kahapon."

She also collaborated with Gina Duyungan on a choreography to "Sana Hindi Mali" of Gary Valenciano.

Strolls Line. "These 3ten hamps are most memorable because of the initial request: it had with the audience. We discovered a completely new way of looking at ballet numbers for musical concerts that created a very strong audience connection."

Verbal cues

From the dancer's point of view, dancing to ballads actually provides relief from the rigors and stress of a Petipa choreography.

"It is a lot easier to dance to ballads with lyrics because you know exactly when you are interpreting to dance from and the music has actual verbal cues," Marquez says.

"The mood and the emotion are set for the audience and the dancers a lot more literally, so that actually meant less work from the dancers involved. I like dancing to ballads because it is a light kind of classical ballet. It also leaned more toward the sensitive expression."

The collaboration with choreographers for this project was not complicated. They chose the songs and the order of the pas groups. They also consulted Melisa.

Explains the ballerina: "One thing that we have my search on for in doing this season finale is that we don't want the audience to see the 'back-up' dancers for the singer. We want the entire concert to flow well and not jump from one separate production number to the next. And, we want to enhance the easy all her performance treat by collaborating with the singer."

Most musical

Working with choreographers Ramona and Gerardo Francisco is great.

"They are very flexible," says Bisenga. "They can make 'instant' choreographies to one or two orchestrations.

"Ballet à Ballade" will also showcase Dancing to Gravity, a Ballet Manila pupils' choreographed by the late Tony Fabel.

It is.

"Tito Tony was one of the most musical choreographers of all time—and he was such a joy to work with. He had been a great partner of Bill for the last 11 years. We miss him terribly!" Marquez says.

The ballerina likes to think that, indeed, it is easier to dance to ballads because there is a clear translation of the piece in the form of the lyrics of the songs.

Why thinks?

"He has unique songs that all generations can identify with. He is a romantic balladeer true who has lasted in the business for more than 40 years, and he is a professional! When I learned that he accepted our invitation, I was jumping up and down for joy!"

"Ballet à Ballade," directed by Ramona Lapus and presented by the Manila Broadcasting company, runs Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m., Feb. 20, 3 and 8 p.m., and Feb. 21, 3 p.m., at the Aliw Theater, Star City, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Call 4988202 or 5253967; e-mail info@balletmanila.ph, or visit www.balletmanila.ph.

The Filipino love affair with the guitar

From page B1

condos.

He walked into the Cultural Center of the Philippines Gido Theater last week and caught practically everyone strumming at their guitars in the lobby in the ballet dudes' of guitars and music shows for sale.

They were the Guitar Friends, enthusiasts in varied vocations like Music Rendezvous, owned by Rory Gen. Baladad Thelmar, Film Magnus of Magnus Study, dozens of doctors, engineers, blind guitarists, ethnic instructors, even a professional lawyer.

Enrique Yu, chair of CCP's Museo and head of Guitar Friends, had brought philanthropist millionaire Ramboy Co-pongco in co-sponsoring the festival with Bise and CCP. The man with the Midas was smiling from ear to ear in the lobby. This, to him, was a dream come true. His dedication to guitar music is legendary.

Over-lights at the lobby was an astounding number of his guitar arrangements available in booklets and CDs were downloadable on the Internet for free.

Midas, who has been teaching guitar since 1971 at age 17 practically started **studying when no one was offering de**gree courses at all. His father gave him lessons after which he never quit self-study and became a child prodigy at 14.

Most loved instrument

Through Namoya, Midas hopes to raise the standards of guitar playing to internationally-rated levels, and to organize the formal guitar courses to be held on the provincial level.

Imagine the sad situation of Cebu, land of storied guitar-makers and guitarists, but having made it to the Metropolitan competitions for lack of training. Amazing but true.

"Everywhere, just as harps may sag guitars," he says. "But it is not because it is easy to play The flute, cello, the trumpet are also easy to play. It is the most loved instruments by both rich and poor."

Midas shares an anecdote of his kids and his during the Philippine Booksellers Association's Manila Book Fair at the SM Megamall.

Strolls Line. "Three 3ten hamps are most memorable because of the initial request: it had with the audience. We discovered a completely new way of looking at ballet numbers for musical concerts that created a very strong audience connection."

Verbal cues

From the dancer's point of view, dancing to ballads actually provides relief from the rigors and stress of a Petipa choreography.

"It is a lot easier to dance to ballads with lyrics because you know exactly when you are interpreting to dance from and the music has actual verbal cues," Marquez says.

"The mood and the emotion are set for the audience and the dancers a lot more literally, so that actually meant less work from the dancers involved. I like dancing to ballads because it is a light kind of classical ballet. It also leaned more toward the sensitive expression."

The collaboration with choreographers for this project was not complicated. They chose the songs and the order of the pas groups. They also consulted Melisa.

Explains the ballerina: "One thing that we have my search on for in doing this season finale is that we don't want the audience to see the 'back-up' dancers for the singer. We want the entire concert to flow well and not jump from one separate production number to the next. And, we want to enhance the easy all her performance treat by collaborating with the singer."

Most musical

Working with choreographers Ramona and Gerardo Francisco is great.

"They are very flexible," says Bisenga. "They can make 'instant' choreographies to one or two orchestrations.

"Ballet à Ballade" will also showcase Dancing to Gravity, a Ballet Manila pupils' choreographed by the late Tony Fabel.

It is.

"Tito Tony was one of the most musical choreographers of all time—and he was such a joy to work with. He had been a great partner of Bill for the last 11 years. We miss him terribly!" Marquez says.

The ballerina likes to think that, indeed, it is easier to dance to ballads because there is a clear translation of the piece in the form of the lyrics of the songs.

Why thinks?

"He has unique songs that all generations can identify with. He is a romantic balladeer true who has lasted in the business for more than 40 years, and he is a professional! When I learned that he accepted our invitation, I was jumping up and down for joy!"

"Ballet à Ballade," directed by Ramona Lapus and presented by the Manila Broadcasting company, runs Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m., Feb. 20, 3 and 8 p.m., and Feb. 21, 3 p.m., at the Aliw Theater, Star City, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Call 4988202 or 5253967; e-mail info@balletmanila.ph, or visit www.balletmanila.ph.

New Ovi Maps with free navigation races past 1 million downloads in a week

New Ovi Maps with free navigation races past 1 million downloads in a week

ESPOO – Nokia has today announced that since the 21 January 2010 launch of the new version of Ovi Maps with free walk and drive navigation, there have been over 1.4 million downloads. The one-millionth mark was reached just one week after the launch.

"We're averaging a download a second, 24 hours a day," said Anssi Vanjoki, Executive Vice President, Nokia. "When we announced free walk & drive navigation we knew it would be a game-changer. The number of people now using their Nokia for navigation, and as a result looking for more location-aware software, is growing faster than even we predicted."

The success of the new version Ovi Maps is a key part of Nokia's strategy to lead the market in mobile maps, navigation and location-based services. By leveraging its investment in HERE360, Nokia has been able to remove the costs associated with navigation for drivers and pedestrians and is quickly activating a massive user base to which it can offer new location features, content and services.

"This is great news for our 3rd party application developers. Within a matter of days there is an installed base of more than 1 million active users all potentially hungry for new and innovative location-aware apps," continued Anssi Vanjoki. "For the operators too there is a growing opportunity to sell more data-plans and a complete navigation package to existing and new customers."

As of 21 January 2010 the top five countries downloading the new version of Ovi Maps were China, Italy, UK, Germany and Spain. The top five most popular Nokia devices installing the download were Nokia 5800 XpressMusic, Nokia N97 mini, Nokia N97, Nokia 5230 and Nokia E72.

"There is a huge appetite for GPS navigation on mobile phones. We estimate there were already 28.9 million people actively using GPS navigation on their mobile phone at the end of 2009," said Chris Jones, VP & Principal Analyst at research firm Canalys.

From next month, all new Nokia GPS enabled smartphones will include the new version of Ovi Maps, pre-loaded with local country map data, with high-end walk and drive navigation and access to Lonely Planet and Michelin travel guides at no extra cost.

Ovi Maps covers more than 180 countries with car and pedestrian navigation for 74 countries, in 46 languages, and traffic information for more than 10 countries. There are more than 6000 3D landmarks for 200 cities around the world. Lonely Planet and Michelin guides have information on more than 1,000 destinations globally.

Nokia makes worldwide walk and drive navigation free on smartphones

San Pedro's works featured at PPO concert

NATIONAL ARTIST FOR MUSIC Lucio San Pedro's immortal works will be featured in the ninth concert series of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) Feb. 11, 8 p.m., at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Main Theater.

Guest performer is soprano Frederica Ilustre, under the baton of maestro Agrippino Ubarra. The concert coincides with the 97th birth anniversary of the late San Pedro.

The program consists of San Pedro's "Ang Bituon sa Kalumbabuan" tone poem; "Lupang Minhal ng Diyos" for soprano solo and orchestra; "Oiwala ng Ibig Ibig," "Indio Bocalan" and "Lahing Kayumanggi" symphonic poem.

Ilustre is a graduate of Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance from the University of Sto. Tomas (UST) Conservatory of Music under professor Rachelle Gozelino. She is a former member and soloist of the international award-winning UST Singers under the baton of professor Pidel G. Calalang Jr., and has been with the choir participating in five international concert tours covering Europe, the United States, Mexico and Asia.

She won first prize in the 2007 National Music Competition for Young Artists (Nayon), Voice Category C. She was featured as soloist at the "Messiah" and the Christmas Carol tradition with the PPO, conducted by the acclaimed British conductor David Parkhouse at the Tulfo Arts Theater in 2007.

She played Sally in Johann Strauss II's popular operetta in three acts, "Die Fledermaus" (The Bat), held at the CCP in 2008. Later that year, she was soloist at the TFOT Christmas concert by the Philharmonia Chamber Choir and the Singapore Bible College Singers conducted by Wilfrig Lei Poon at the Esplanade Concert Hall in Singapore.

Agrippino "Nonoy" V. Ubarra obtained his degree, Major in Music Theory and Composition, from De University of the Philippines Conservatory of Music in 1990. He took up Orchestral Direction with Jean Sebastien Bereau and Ferdinand Koch at the Conservatoire National de Region de Reims, France, where he earned a Gold Medal of Excellence (the highest award being given by the conservatory) in 1993. Simultaneously, he studied Orchestral Direction (Auditeur) at the Conservatoire National Superieur de Musique de Paris.

In 1997, he represented the Philippines in the 45th International Competition for Young Conductors held in Besancon, France, where he emerged as one of the Top 10 out of 176 candidates representing 43 countries (to date, the highest place attained by a Filipino conductor in an international conducting competition).

He was also the music director and conductor of the UP Chamber Orchestra in 1999-2000, and the music director and principal conductor of Angeles National Symphonic Band, founded by San Pedro, until 2006. He served as Philippine representative to the Asia Composers Council for the Second Asian Composers' Meeting in Thailand in October 2006 (elimination rounds) and November 2008 (finals).

Ubarra's composition "Parihas ni Edward" won third place at the Himig-ya in 1985. His "Alehaya" for mixed choir is performed by choirs around the world.

For more information, call CCP at 8321704, 8321125 loc. 1405; 1406 1606; Telefax/cell at 8919999; visit www.culture-center.gov.ph.

What's Chekhov got to do with martial law?

Turn to page B3

director Ferdinand Marcos in 1977, with the country in the grip of martial law. This is, however, only implied in the play.

The play opens at Tungkaling Sa-wika Teknikong Cultural Center of the Philippines, Feb. 19, 8 p.m., and will run for four weekends till June 6 at Tanghalang Huseng Batute.

Dolly Cantoveros plays Marilyn Gilgot; Mirko Kanapi is Prince (Mirko) Jurgeli-Jurgeni, Monster Jimco's Riki Brondello; Soddy Zuñiga is Sonia Wilhelm Himmler.

The military plays a role in the play. In Chekhov's time... late 19th century—the Russian military was considered refined and expert of the "salon of intrigue."

Obviously the Philippine military then (and now) was not like that, so the military in the adaptation has been transformed into a crew of high-tech professionals, a team of engineers building a dam.

"But maybe "somehow, parallel is so interesting and appropriate," Ilustre said. "We stayed close to the text of Chekhov's plays, 'The Cherry Orchard' and 'The Three Sisters' (particularly anticipated the revolution in Russia. As a backdrop, the characters didn't necessarily address the imminent upheaval in Russian history but it somehow gave resistance to the petty concerns of the characters."

The Russian Revolution, he observed, "was a failed promise." It was meant to be; one might add.

For Ilustre, who hails from Cebu, the play is "very very close to the Philippines. I wanted it in Filipino. The sentiments are more easily conveyed; more naked in Filipino. Much of Chekhov is about class, the class system. You know, people believe and talk because they belong to a certain class vs. people who belong to a different class."

Elaborating, he noted: "That's why I was very interested in doing Chekhov here, because the Philippines is very class conscious. People believe in a certain way toward their maids, people who do not belong to a certain class."

The director concluded: "I mean, you can see it in Manila. If you belong to a certain college, you believe in a certain way. Not that you do it intentionally but it's part of your [upbringing]. Whether you like it or not, you grow up with it. That's why to me Chekhov is very, very interesting, especially to the Filipinos. In a way, it's like looking at ourselves."

Auditions for new CCP production of 'Flower Drum Song'

AUDITIONS FOR THE PRINCIPAL ROLES in the new production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Flower Drum Song," to be mounted by the Cultural Center of the Philippines and Tanghalang Pilipino in October-November, will be held at Hidalgonga (mezzo Bernardo (CCP Conference Room) today and next Monday, Feb. 15, 1-6 p.m.

The production is in search of actors/singers/dancers for the following roles:

1. Lead female character Mei Li, new immigrant from China, 30s, soprano

2. Wang Chi Yang, Chinese opera actor and immigrant to San Francisco, 50s, baritone

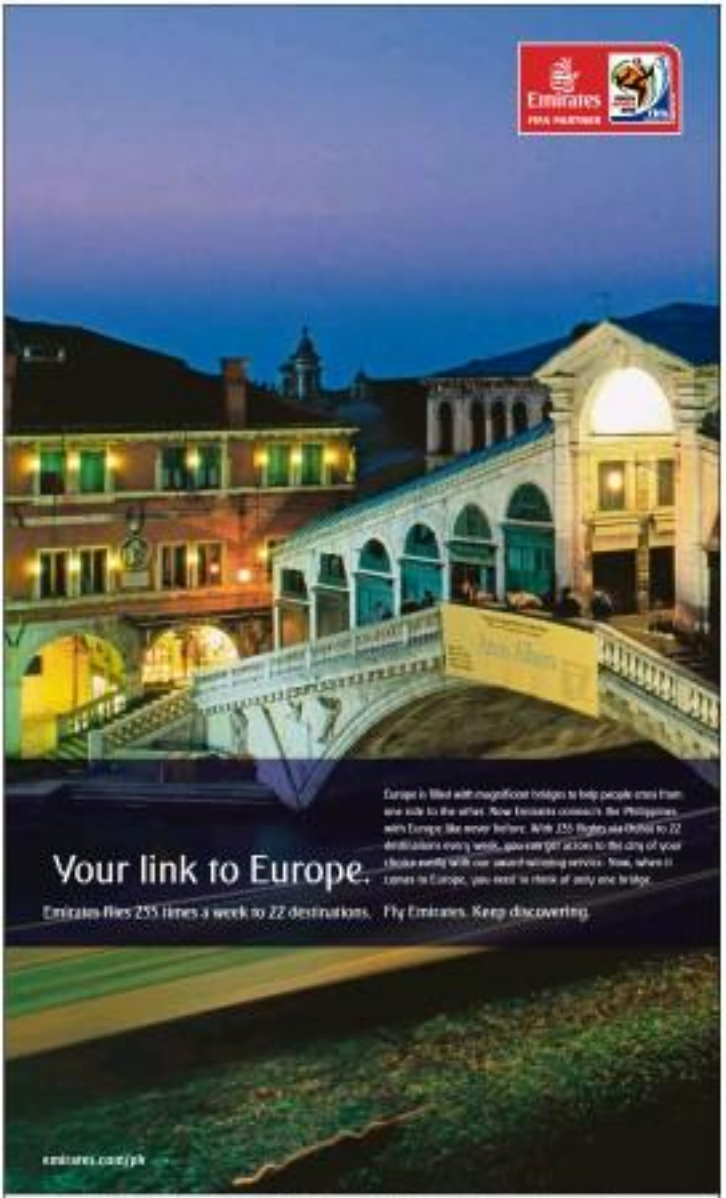
3. Linda Low, Chinese-American, nightclub singer, 20s, mezzo

4. Madame Sha Liang, Chinese-American tabloid agent with strong comic timing, 50s, mezzo

Auditionees must have had previous acting experience in musical-theater production. They are requested to come prepared with two songs, one of which should be from the musical and in the role that he or she wants to audition for.

Please, bring musical score for piano if accompaniment is necessary. Also be prepared to show a 2-minute dance routine and do a short reading.

Applicants are requested to bring their bodies and one close up and one full body photograph. For details, contact Bernadette at 8321125 loc. 1311; or Chester Lauzon at 9121125 loc. 1606-1607.



Violinist Joseph Esmilla in dashing comeback

By Amanda C. Hila
Contributor

VIOLINIST JOSEPH ESMILLA embedded music lovers to a recent violin recital with pianist Rudolf Golez in the Philamlife Theatre.

The concert was a dashing comeback for Joseph, who had been sorely missed on Manila's concert stage. His presence has remained intact, undiminished over the long years of absence, and, in fact, has acquired more luster.

He had a well-poised stance that oozed with exciting confidence, as he displayed certain technical grounding and mature interpretative disposition honed by concertizing abroad. He has once more established his reputation as a world-class performer who has remained committed all those 17 years he was not heard of on the local scene.

The occasion was the Manila Chamber Orchestra Foundation's 25th anniversary.

Esmilla and Golez were young artists who were given early exposure by the MCO, in fulfillment of its goal of bringing music to more people and showcasing PH talent. MCO, in chief Salvador H. Enrile's said in his message:

Joseph had originally played with the MCO with his father, Sergio Jr., as conductor. Some years back, Rudolf had played as soloist with the MCO in a memorable outreach performance in Cagayan de Oro City conducted by Professor Esmilla.

Joseph said in the performance at Philamlife one more throwback ago. Many years back, too, Rudolf, then in his teens, had performed a solo piano recital in the same theater. Until today Philamlife leads Manila's few performance venues in terms of soundboard strength.

Ecstatic audience

The program was meaty; it combined both well-borne and light classical animation pieces.

Joseph's Richard Strauss, Sonata in E-Flat Major, Op. 18, was enjoyed with solid virtuoso. Especially. More than the scherzo, symphonic tone color the violin and piano had evened to the first and last movements, he had elegantly honed warm singing lines in the second movement, andante cantabile, which did not have inspiration as all as the composer matched the movements. He exquisitely delineated the melodic lines.

In the opening piece, Ballata' Intimissimi, Rudolf, playing on a Bosendorfer Grandeur of Ben Made United, was almost symbiotic in his sensitive, romantic flow which Joseph matched with equal verve.

The audience became more ecstatic over the familiar shorter pieces on the second part of the program, preceded by Sonata No. 6 in E Major, Op. 27, by Eugene Ysaye, where the violinist displayed skillful bowing intricacies such as the ricochet, pizzicato and the like. These works are not just technical showpieces but are melodious as well and do not require much cerebral analysis to be understood at first hearing.

Joseph brought out the so-called Viennese spirit that looked with excellent quality appreciative of the joy of living that Vienna was famous for.

In the lighter arrangement of songs were Cevdarov's "Parpo and Jona," he dished out familiar tunes. The audience easily relaxed with songs such as "Summertime," "S Wonderful In a Somewhere Thing," "How You Is My Woman Now," and "It Ain't Necessary So," several hosts with accompanying touch.

His reservoir of strength never ran out as he went on to play more demanding short pieces such as Sarasate's Sonatina Andaluza, which he seamlessly crafted to bring out its musical gems.

A curtain encore was provided to the next-to-last piece that showcased brilliant virtuosity. Wieniawski's Polonaise Brillante in D Major, Op. 4. This was followed by two more pieces by encored to quiet down the mighty long applause at the end of the program.

Indeed, it was such a dashing comeback for Joseph, and a revelation for Rudolf who played his part with gusto and keen eye for details.

The collaboration between the violinist and the pianist was wholesome. Collaborative performances pose much challenge to soloists whose individual artistry must result in glowing ensemble.

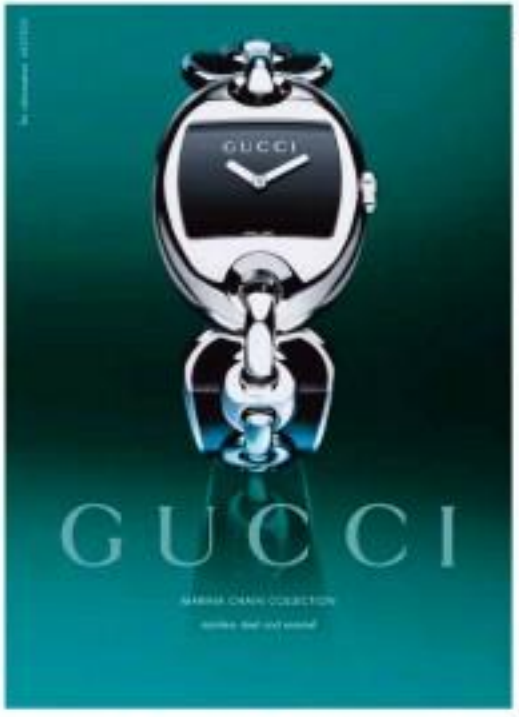
Perhaps Manila audience should see more of this event to enrich chamber music appreciation. Joseph and Rudolf are for keeps; they should maintain the tandem.

JOSEPH Esmilla and Rudolf Golez

Mighty applause

Technical skills flourished more abundantly in the Arriaga piece, the Tchaikovsky Chorus and Caprice Viennois, himself a virtuoso violinist.

Joseph showed commanding command in this short unaccompanied piece written in the modern style. Those crushing chords and tremendous pressing notes, which the violinist energetically conquer, were tempered by the undulating habanera rhythms delay in the middle of this virtuosity scored piece.



ENTERTAINMENT

Life | Entertainment | Lifestyle

Mobile Alert: Text REG ENTERTAINMENT to 2400 | Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment | E-mail: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

OVERHEARD

CANADIAN filmmaker James Cameron, asked about an "Avatar" sequel: "We'll first have to see how much money [Avatar's] makes. I'm absolutely surprised as far as the rewards it has bestowed. We thought it was gonna be a commercial movie, but we didn't think it was gonna do half of what it's done...financially. Doing it was not easy, though. I had to keep from putting a pistol to my temple about 20 times." AFP

How Frencheska hopes to go Farr in the biz

Kapuso discovery makes jump to the big screen

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

WHEN A DOOR CLOSES, A window opens. This, Frencheska Farr has learned, is especially true in show business.

Though her GMA 7 show "Sunod Kay Hesus" wraps up next month, she has a high-profile movie in the works: the big-screen musical "Etak," produced by the Film Development Council of the Philippines, with the assistance of the

BACK TO

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. GIPPH — BY JES ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY — BY PH JUNIOR

DICK TRACY

LOVEMOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGLO

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN HALIMS

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

TUDLOK — BY MARK COLL

BEH — BY DANIEL SHELTON

KUBO MACHINE — BY MARK ABRERA

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

YOU WERE BORN Your actions are motivated by both independent freedom and a desire for stability. You're a natural entrepreneur, but those of you who follow a more traditional career path may find yourself in a position of authority. You have a strong sense of duty and are very protective of your family and friends. You're a good listener and are always willing to help others. You're also a bit of a perfectionist and can be critical of yourself and others. You're a deep thinker and enjoy spending time alone to recharge your batteries. You're a loyal friend and a devoted partner. You're also a bit of a romantic and enjoy spending time with your loved one.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Tomorrow will be wonderful in relevant terms. Actions taken temporarily vulnerable and indulge also negative misunderstood. Interruptions reconsidering the way. Avoid an opportunity has any likely! Finish something.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You're in touch with your head as communication. Stress could be increased. Handling business as usual. Avoid property, debt and travel might yield a surprising. Chaos!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Expect the unexpected from partners and close friends today. Someone might demand more freedom than you desire. Others might see you in a new light that's a lot of good.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Interruptions to your routine are likely due to computer problems, communication, confusion, or misunderstandings. Avoid arguments and equipment breakdowns. Work and you will benefit.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You're in an unpredictable day for relations to your close and, most importantly, for your romantic life is now aligned. Give love and take it easy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Extraordinary will indicate to your various at home. Be careful not to overdo it. Avoid the temptation of small additional commitments with friendships because you might find.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) This is an excellent time for creative. Artistic and talk time to concentrate in your hobby pursuits — especially moving, walking and jogging. Think from before you act.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You might feel money today, you might find unexpected a bill something on fast. Things could go either way — it's a coin flip!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Today could be explosive, with all kinds of unpredictable events and reactions. You will need all your patience, common sense and a bit extra. But in the end, it will be worth it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Like lightning, confusion might strike. It's as if you're waiting for the other shoe to drop. There's a sudden, jarring feeling. Hide!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) A friend might surprise you today or you might run into someone who is known and respected. Something might cause you to reflect your future goals.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Don't get your sky (or kite). You might feel confused or distant and disinterested in aspects of your life, including people. Patience is your best attribute. Demonstrate your stable presence.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

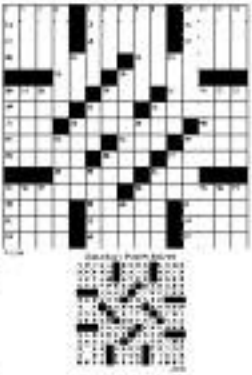
6	4	7	5	9	3	8	2	1
9	5	2	1	7	8	4	3	6
8	1	3	6	2	4	9	5	7
1	6	5	3	8	9	7	4	2
3	2	8	7	4	5	1	6	9
4	7	9	2	6	1	3	8	5
5	9	6	8	1	2	3	7	4
2	3	4	5	3	7	6	9	8
7	8	1	4	3	6	6	9	2

Conceptis Sudoku — By Dave Green

			1	7		2		
	6	3					7	
7		8		5		4	1	
			8		7			1
5		7				6		8
8			2		5			
	4	5		1		3		7
	8					5	9	
		9		8	6			

Hot today, I see! ●

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



How . . .

Dubbed Centre of the Philippines.

"It's sad that the show will end, but I know I'm lucky getting a huge break like 'Kuh,'" says the winner of GMA 7's talent ilk, "Are You the Next Big Star?"

Dazzled

She's dazzled by the movie, directed by Claire S. Boku and written by Jerry Cuarto, with script and music by Tony Cimorelli. Ruby Ruiz, Vin and Elle Dennis. She slept at least six nights off the 20-song soundtrack. She realizes that this is now for a nonexistent film fest.

To be sure, Jen stunk on the stage twice: "Monkey" and "Your Big Day" grilled. Yet for "Kuh," the words never of tired become her chosen is a performance.

"I've learned a lot from Direk Claire," says Bratinella, who admits she had been scolded on the set. "He's strict, but he's always right."

Singing Ate was particularly challenging when the movie moved because from the usual

She's been scolded on the set, but says director was right

dream of Goon, to the slow tempos of Bayani, all the way to...Afternoon.

"The vocalist was sexier," recounts Bratinella. "Dressing cold at night and in the morning, and recording, but it sounded...I got sick."

Fortunately, the sights and sounds of the indie environment—particularly of Manahoch, Quezonians and Bonnettes...were "breathtaking."

She exclaims: "The culture is rich and colorful. And the women proudly wear the national costume."

Playing Aurelia, a young Pursuit her to grow up to many ways, says the 17-year-old. "In the movie, I'll age from 25 to 42. In real workshops, I was taught to be mature of how people behave. Now, observing a second nature to me."

Young climbers

The workshops brought her closer to the young indie leads—child actors Joshua Bonnin (from Lebanon) and Maloli Gayani (from Iran), who play her cousin at ages 7 and 12.

"We're super close now. Joshua would often lick me face. He's mature and talkative. He's very entertaining."

She's keeping her fingers crossed that "Kuh" will be entered in international film festivals.

It's a story that the world should know, she says. "Not all OFWs have tragic experiences. Some succeed and are happy."

CINEMA ACCESS: 595-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA

1 DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?
2 THE PRINCESS & THE FROG
3 DEAR JOHN
4 CASE 39
5 PAANO NA KAYA

7 AVATAR
8 BIG
9 MESSENGERS 2: THE SCARECROW
10 LEGION

MANILA

1 CASE 39
2 DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?
3 DEAR JOHN
4 THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG
5 PAANO NA KAYA
6 MESSENGERS 2: THE SCARECROW
7 LEGION

METRO EAST

1 THE PRINCESS & THE FROG
2 DEAR JOHN
3 DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?
4 CASE 39
5 LEGION
6 AVATAR
7 PAANO NA KAYA
8 MESSENGERS 2: THE SCARECROW

ROYALE/HOBES

1 CASE 39
2 MESSENGERS 2: THE SCARECROW
3 DEAR JOHN
4 DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?

FORUM ROBINSONS

1 DEAR JOHN
2 DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?
3 THE PRINCESS & THE FROG
4 CASE 39

MOVIEWORLD Barkada Treat

PROMO INFO/SPACE

1. Customer must have a minimum single purchase of three (3) movie tickets at Robinsons Movieworld GENSAN to avail of the free movie treat.
2. Customer will automatically receive one (1) free movie pass.
3. The free movie pass is valid for use any day, any movie until April 29, 2010.
4. The movie pass is not convertible to cash.
5. Upon usage of the free movie pass, customer should surrender the free movie pass at the ticket booth in exchange of a movie ticket.

Promo Duration: February 1 to 28, 2010

STA. ROSA

1 LEGION
2 THE PRINCESS & THE FROG
3 DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?
4 THE BLIND SIDE

LIPA

1 ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL
2 PAANO NA KAYA
3 THE TOOTH FAIRY
4 OLD DOGS
5 CARRIERS

DASMARINAS

1 THE PRINCESS & THE FROG
2 LEGION
3 PAANO NA KAYA
4 THE BLIND SIDE

STARMILLS

1 PAANO NA KAYA
2 DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS
3 AVATAR
4 UNIVERSAL SOLDIER: REGENERATION
5 THE PRINCESS & THE FROG
6 LEGION

IMUS

1 PAANO NA KAYA
2 DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?
3 LEGION
4 THE BLIND SIDE
5 THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG

ANGELES

1 DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?
2 PAANO NA KAYA
3 UNIVERSAL SOLDIER: REGENERATION
4 THE PRINCESS & THE FROG

TACLOBAN

1 THE PRINCESS & THE FROG
2 DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?
3 PAANO NA KAYA

DUMAGUETE

1 THE PRINCESS & THE FROG
2 DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?
3 PAANO NA KAYA

MACOLOD

1 LEGION
2 THE PRINCESS & THE FROG
3 THE BOXING
4 DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?
5 PAANO NA KAYA
6 SHREKANDRE

ILOILO

1 LEGION
2 PAANO NA KAYA
3 THE MAGNIFICENT DR. PARNASSUS
4 THE PRINCESS & THE FROG
5 THE TOOTH FAIRY
6 DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?

GENSAN

1 PREDATOR
2 DRAGE BLITREAK: THE VAMPIRE'S ASSISTANT
3 PAANO NA KAYA
4 ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL

ILOCOS NORTE (NOW OPEN!)

1 ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL
2 PREDATOR
3 PAANO NA KAYA

WATCH IT LIVE via SATELLITE

Pacquiao vs. Clottey
BOXING MATCH
March 14, 2010
Sunday
8:00AM

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!
P550 Galleria, Manila & Metro East
P450 Imus, Iloilo and Bacolod
P350 Tacloban, Dumaguete, Gensan Bacos Norte

MOVIEWORLD

At the Cinemas
GLORIETTA 4
GREENBELT 1
GREENBELT 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
TRINOMA
MARKET! MARKET!
AYALA CENTER CEBU
MARQUEE

Ayala Malls

For verification, please call 729-7777

ENCLUSIVE

NOW SHOWING AT GLORIETTA 4 GREENBELT 3 & TRINOMA CINEMAS

★★★★

At the Malls
GLORIETTA
GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
AYALA CENTER CEBU
MARKET! MARKET!
TRIINOMA
BONIFACIO HIGH STREET

TIMEZONE FREEBIE of the MONTH

FREE!!! Holy Kettle Corn! Silver Edition Popcorn For specific Powercard loads!

www.timezone.com.ph

Glorietta · Greenbelt · Alabang Town Center · Ayala Center Cebu · Marquee Mall

A BIGGER AND BETTER WATCHPAD NOW STREAMS THE BIGGEST CAMPUS EVENTS!

Top schools and universities have now upgraded campus fairs to a whole new level!

More and more campuses are being part of PLDT myDSL Watchpad – the country's fastest-growing Internet entertainment portal! From UP Diliman, Miriam, UST, FEU, St. Theresa's College to Cebu's premier universities, students can now enjoy 18 TV channels, award-winning films, along with their own campus events, only on Watchpad! All geared up to cover 20 more schools and counting, students now have a new hangout in Watchpad to experience multimedia broadband entertainment like no other!

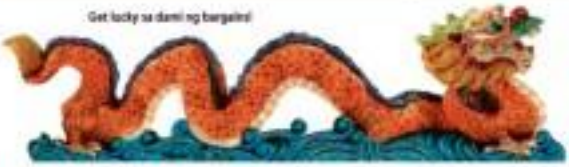
'This year, catch Watchpad in more campuses in cover more events!

Far Eastern University Jan. 23 and Feb. 20	Ateneo de Manila University Jan. 29-30	Lourdes School Mandaluyong Feb. 12
San Sebastian College Recoletos Jan. 20-23	La Salle Greenhills Feb. 3-6	St. Joseph's College Feb. 13
Don Bosco Mandaluyong Jan. 23	St. Theresa's College Feb. 3	University of the Philippines Feb. 19
Don Bosco Canlubang Jan. 24-30	Cebu Institute of Technology Feb. 10	Assumption College Feb. 22
De La Salle Araneta Jan. 26-27	San Beda College Alabang Feb. 8-13	De La Salle University Taft Feb. 25-26

You want your school event to be featured? Visit **www.pldtwatchpad.com** or email **myview.pldtwatchpad@gmail.com**.

ENTERTAINMENT

Get lucky sa dami ng bargains!



Why lovelorn Shaina prefers 'mature' men to boys

By Marinell R. Cruz

YOUNG ACTRESS Shaina Magdayao, who recently broke up with her boyfriend, actor John Prats, has a practical explanation for why she prefers "mature" men to boys.

"At a very young age, I was already given many responsibilities. I don't have time to chase a boy's fascination with teenage stuff. I'd like to be able to talk to the person I'm with about life, not just about movies and immature things," Shaina told Inquirer.net Entertainment.

In contrast, Shaina confessed her breakups with John, her ducked to divulge the reason. The actress, however, maintained there was no "third party" involved, despite rumors that John was dating another actress, Bimby Aquino.

Reports speaking Shaina said the breakup was difficult for both herself and John. "But we're trying very hard to save the friendship," Shaina pointed out. "We both take the blame for the failed relationship."

She declined to answer more questions about the split, although she did let mention Intermission as on the kind of guy she'd like to be with in the future. He asked Shaina...who, many people say, has a striking resemblance to "Twilight" lead actress Kristen Stewart—why she prefers the charismatic Edward Cullen (portrayed by Robert Pattinson) to Jacob Black (Taylor Lautner).

"I like men who are mature. Guys like Jacob are still young and adventurous. They always want to explore," Shaina explained. "I want to be able to look up to the person I'm with. With Edward (type), I feel I can depend on many things. I find Edward very interesting. He has so many experiences in life that he can share with a girl. I want to be with a partner who is like him."

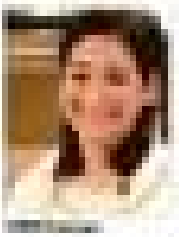
Edward is a vampire who, in the course of the "Twilight" series, falls in love with, marries, and has a child with Bella Swan (Stewart). Edward is estimated to be at least 100 years old. Jacob, 16, who undergoes a transformation that makes him morph into a wolf, competes with Edward for Bella's love. Various websites feature debates among "Twilight" fans on who between the two is best suited to be Bella's life partner.

How do you react when people say you're a Bella look-alike?

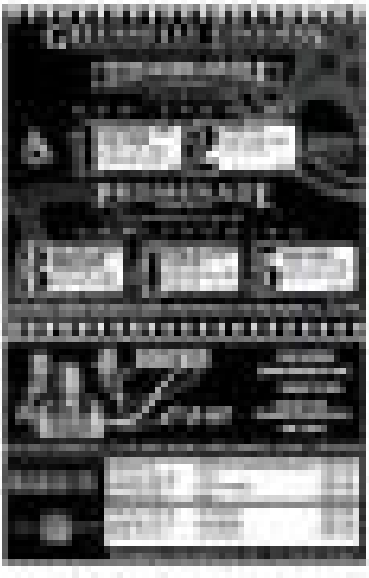
I feel flattered. I appreciate the fact that they see in me the

NEXT PA

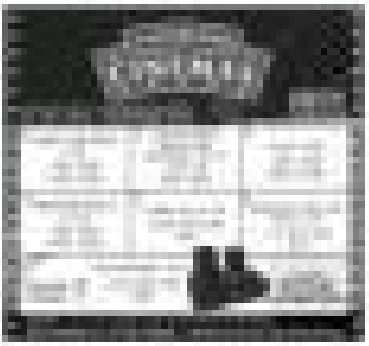
CINEMA

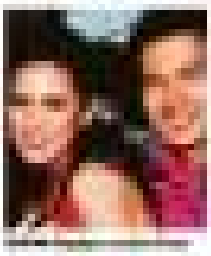


China Copyr



ago as a TV chef





DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal

No trouble spoofing Marlene

IT WAS SUCH A DELIGHT TO INTERVIEW "Sunstroke Idol" Eric Allen, Jobbernowkem and Bryan Arsenue with my newspaper colleagues on the online show "Pep Interviews," on PLDT's Pinoyload.

Eric used to travel the world as a stuntman. Now he's globetrotting as he spreads his magic. He's the only "Sunstroke Idol" who's married.

Doesn't he wife Rafy get jealous of his fans? "Not at all," he says. "She keeps me sane. Without her, I would be a wreck."

He confessed that he never expected to win "It" and that he wouldn't wait for the competition to end so that he could go back to his normal life. But after bagging the title, his world is now far from what it used to be.

Free to Freer

Your favorite newspaper is now online

www.libre.com.ph

For our print-online bundled advertising rates, please call 897-8808 extension 534

The three gorgeous lesbians who complete Bryan Arsenue said they uploaded their acoustic rendition on YouTube just for the heck of it and they got the biggest surprise of their lives when they became an instant sensation.

They chose to call themselves Bayan Arsenue because it's the name of the street they grew up on.

The cool, bibbowedown dancer swears that the thought of disbanding in the future is unthinkable because they no longer consider themselves just as a dance group, but as a family. Without a triple delight it was to get up close and personal with Piero "Magic" of the music-dance scene.

So glad that Channel 9's top female #trashtalk blogger went out of his way to darely what I wrote in my previous column about him leaving me banned at the press tent of the foreign artists' reception dinner because he didn't exactly like what I wrote about him and his Pet.

It turned out to be a case of misunderstanding. One common friend, Channel 9's exec Bil Rodriguez, intervened in Seoul and I were finally able to meet at Shangri-La. Edsa after the press con.

Being the true gentleman that he is, he apologized. I thought he would get mad because of the tweeting pics of Jeed and him that I posted, but he didn't.

"I respect your opinion as much as anybody else's," he says. "Jeed and I are not letting our relationship has neither are we announcing it."

Seeing how happily dated he and Jeed were that night tells me that Cupid got his mission accomplished in Jane Eyre Velez!

Witnessing is not scary at all that late spoofing Marlene Aguilar says got her in trouble. "So let make pa manang nagpapatawad," she says, laughing. "Pag ni-meet ko si Marlene, pasasalamatan ko nya kasi binigyan nya ako ng bagong character to impersonate."

When is she happy about another character

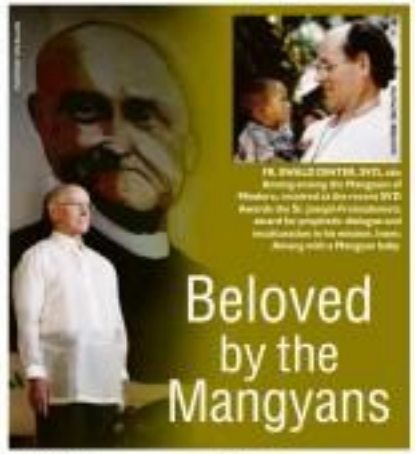
LEARNING

Also Chris Bend Forever

Email: learning@inquirer.com.ph
(632) 910-1030

A lesson plan on the elections every Monday starting today until March 8
Start as 'electionary':
A study guide / G4

elections 2010



FR. ENRILO CINTER, SVD, (on the right) receiving the Pinagsan of Wisdom, received in the name SVD Awards the St. Joseph Foundation's award for prophetic dialogue and reconciliation in his mission, Isaac. Among with a Mangyan baby.

Beloved by the Mangyans

By Madonna Virola
Inquirer Southern Luzon

FR. ENRILO CINTER, SVD (SOCIETY OF the Divine Word), says "Christ is the Mangyan," likewise who wants them to be free and happy."

Endeared as "Amang" to the Mangyan community, the missionary has been in mission for more than two decades of the Mangyan Mission Inc. (MMI), a Church-based nongovernment organization.

The group's program in Oriental Mindoro covers every aspect of Mangyan life, with land as a major concern.

Cinter, 72, also sees education as a weapon that the Mangyans can use to protect their lands and to empowers them in seeking their second class citizens.

Accepted

Born in the former East Germany, Cinter became the first rector of the St. Augustine Major Seminary in Tagaytay City when he arrived in the Philippines in 1968.

After seven years as the seminary, he became provincial superior of the SVD. Six years later, he decided it was "time to work full-time with the Mangyans."

In 1986, the priest attended a Mangyan Huntyan planting ritual in Mansalayan in Mindoro town. He was puzzled by the community's conservation law, but nobody talked to him about it.

After a time, one old Mangyan invited him to a tobacco feast and they told him: "You've been observed very closely. You've seen trade, any negative remark about our culture. We've decided now you may know everything."

Cinter suspects the Mangyans have accepted him because he has never tried to convert them. He has only wanted them "to experience the love of God."

In 1988, he was appointed coordinator of the MMI by then-acting Bishop Jesse Mercader.

Cinter says the MMI "updated" the 300-year-old approach to tribal mission that included deculturation. In 1980, it located 39 Mangyans from different tribes and religions, even those who were not baptized.

"We told them: Look back on your life 10 years ago. How are you doing now and what do you want to happen in the future?" Education relates.

The priest says 1989 was a significant year because the mission gained approval on the ritualism level and became an accepted program.

In 2009, Cinter became temporary executive secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines Episcopal Commission on Indigenous People, which has adopted the mission.

Schools

In pursuit of the mission's goals, Cinter established schools, now totaling 27, all of which have been handed over to the Department of Education for supervision.

Of the total, 11 are formal elementary schools while the rest offer nonformal programs.

The schools are in the interior uplands in the towns of Bulalacao, Bansud, Rongalong, Mansalay, Baco, Naujan, Roxas, Victoria, Pinamalayan, San Teodoro, Gloria and Socorro in Oriental Mindoro.

Director says the mission has provided teachers and buildings. Some 1,363 Mangyans have participated in the programs.

ATTENTION ALL EDUCATORS

Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations

ELECTING Excellence

3RD NATIONAL COCOPEA CONGRESS

FEBRUARY 11 & 12, 2010
SMX CONVENTION CENTER, PASAY CITY

- PERSPECTIVES on the State of Education in the Philippines
- COCOPEA and Education Nation presents their PHILIPPINE EDUCATION REFORM AGENDA
- NATIONAL CANDIDATES share their viewpoints on the Philippine Education Reform Agenda
- COCOPEA welcomes everyone to its EDUCATION EXPO!

REGISTER NOW!
*LAST FEW SLOTS AVAILABLE.

For more information, contact:
COCOPEA SECRETARIAT
Email: [illegible]
Telefax: 403-3366
www.cocopea.org / cocopea@gmail.com

Sponsored by:

TEETH FOR TAT

By Dr. Nemesia I. Vitug
President
Philippine Dental Association (PDA)

PLAQUE, TARTAR & CARIES: KNOW YOUR DENTAL WORRIES

Dental cautions, otherwise known as dental caries, are openings or holes in the enamel and dentin, the two outer layers of a tooth. The outermost white hard surface is the enamel and just beneath lie enamel is the yellow layer called dentin. These layers serve to protect the pulp, an inner living soft tissue containing nerves, blood vessels and connective tissue. About 90% of the population is affected by dental caries—a condition usually left unnoticed by patients. Small cavities may progress to huge cavities, causing food entrapment within until the inner pulp of the affected tooth becomes irritated by bacterial toxins. These are food particles that are hot, cold, sweet or sour — causing toothache.

Sugar plays an important role in tooth decay. These found in variety of simple sugars provides the best form of energy for hungry bacteria to multiply fastest. Plaque, which is a sticky, colorless film of bacteria and sugars, constantly forms on, around and between the teeth, covering the tiny crevices, pits and grooves, regulating the rest of tooth decay. Everyone may develop plaque since bacteria are constantly forming in our mouths. Cavities are produced when the acids from plaque attack teeth after eating. It

plaque. Plaque build up can be avoided by practicing proper oral hygiene such as brushing thoroughly at least twice a day, flossing daily to remove plaque between teeth and under your gumline which toothbrush may not reach, limitation to the intake of sugary and starchy foods especially snacks. But are sticky enough to adhere on tooth surfaces. To counteract this, take plenty of fruits and vegetables and visit your dentist regularly.

Another element that can pose danger to oral health is a hard yellowish deposit on the teeth, consisting of organic secretions and food particles deposited in various salts, such as calcium carbonate called Calculus or Tartar. These precipitates of saliva accumulates around the gum line of the teeth. With the calculus salts present, tartar forms as a hard brownish substance that irritates gums and causes them to recede. It may be difficult for you to brush and floss over tartar forms on your teeth, as the acids released by the bacteria in the mouth are more likely to break down your enamel. This is the time when cavities and tooth decay set in. The furthermore of the tissue inflammation may lead to the gum recession and infection of the bones resulting to tooth loosening and eventually falling out of the teeth if left untreated. Periodic dental visits for the removal of these deposits highly recommended.

—

For questions, comments, or suggestions, email: luchengyk@hotpdsl@gmail.com and secretariat@pda.ph

XYLITOL: Your Defense Against Dental Dangers

Defense is the best offense. Defense wins championships. Defense makes a difference. In sports, defensive plays are integral part for success. The same goes for health – specifically dental health. That's why proper oral hygiene is really important.

How Does Xylitol Protect My Teeth?
Xylitol, the main active ingredient in Lotte Xylitol, has recently to find dental health gum, is scientifically proven to prevent dental problems properties. It is a natural sweetener that is widely considered as "tooth-friendly" and poses no threat to dental health unlike most sweeteners – which can cause damage to teeth and gums if taken in excessive amounts or through consumption intake.

The "tooth-friendly" quality is due to the fact that xylitol can effectively help in keeping our are vastly healthy by preventing the tooth decay and other dental problems.

Together with good oral hygiene practices such as brushing the teeth, flossing, gargling, and visiting the dentist regularly, taking in Lotte Xylitol can help in the series, cavity and plaque build up – dental dangers that can ultimately lead to dental damages.

How Xylitol Keeps My Teeth Tartar and Cavities Free?
The Lotte Xylitol can help in keeping your teeth tartar and cavities-free. Xylitol is a sugar substitute that is uniquely different from most sugars like sucrose.

One difference is that it only has two-thirds the food energy and 15% of the calories of table sugar but is just as sweet. But the more important difference between xylitol and sucrose is that while sucrose, it can't be metabolized by the bacteria Mutans Streptococci.

These bacteria are commonly found in a person's oral cavity. The growth and metabolism of these bacteria enable the formation of plaque. This makes the teeth vulnerable to tartar and cavities build up.

These bacteria also absorb the sugars and carbohydrates from our food and metabolize them into lactic acid. This acid decalcifies or mineralizes the tooth enamel, making it vulnerable to decay.

But since they can't metabolize xylitol, the bacteria cannot produce lactic acid. This helps stop the build up of plaques and cavity therefore decreasing the risk of tooth decay.

How Much Xylitol Should I Have?
Since xylitol is a natural sweetener and a safe sugar substitute that's generally accepted as tooth-friendly, there are no proven dental health risks for taking too much xylitol.

It can be argued that since xylitol can help keep the teeth and gums healthy by preventing plaque build up and tooth decay, the more you take it, the better.

Though it is recommended that you take 7 pellets of Lotte Xylitol 6-8 times a day to effectively take advantage of its dental benefits, no one is saying you can't have more.

LOTTE
XYLITOL
DENTAL HEALTH GUM
Good Habits. Good Teeth.

PDA

Playgrounds for the MIND

Member Schools

LPU reaps victories in a row

FRESH FROM ACHIEVING THE ISO 9001:2008 certification (after being ISO 9001:2000 certified) from the Bureau Veritas, and the Level III status from the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (Paracca) for its Nursing, Liberal Arts, Business Administration and Accountancy programs, Lyceum of the Philippines University (LPU) in Batangas attained the autonomous status – the highest and most prestigious recognition that the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) gives to an educational institution.

Apart from excelling in various quality assurance tools, LPU has established a positive image nationally in its officially accredited higher courses recognitions. Meanwhile, LPU had a promising board performances as it produced topnotchers – one after the other.

With all these victories, LPU has proven that it is not just a typical provincial school. It is a university on the level of par with – and can even be ahead of – the country's biggest universities.

GLOBE, UNITEL LAUNCH READING CAMPAIGN

Globe, a leading telecommunications company in the Philippines and some overseas partner Singapore Telecommunications Ltd (SingTel), finds it befitting to celebrate Rizal Day by launching their "Globe-SingTel Reading Campaign" which aims to improve the reading competencies and encourage love for reading of elementary students from the most needed areas of the country. The program aims to give each student classical story books published by SingTel plus a school bag filled with school supplies given by Globe through its CSR arm "Globe Bridging Communities" (Globe Bridges). The program is in line with the exciting national reading program of the Philippine government through the Department of Education's Every Child a Reader Campaign (Ecrac). Launched in 2007, Ecrac seeks to make every Filipino child a reader by providing them with reading materials and that will improve their reading skills by the end of Grade 3. Photo shows, from left, Globe president and CEO Ernest Cu, SingTel's Bernard Chen, Singapore Ambassador A. Selvarajah, SingTel corporate communications vice president Peter Seng, and Globe chair James Augustin Zobel de Ayala presenting the books to the students representing the various indigenous groups in the Philippines who will be the recipient of the Globe-SingTel Reading Campaign.

TIP alumnus bags 2009 Bagong Bayani Award

DAGA MANILA, 8 PORTUGAL ACADEMICS OF SCIENCE IN UNIL ENG... evening graduated of TIP Manila total. 1990 was the 2009 Bagong Bayani Awards. 1986 for World Outstanding Filipinos Employee. This was announced by the Bagong Bayani Foundation (BBF) in cooperation with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA). The award was conferred by His Excellency, Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in ceremonies held at the Malacañang Palace on Dec. 4, 2009. Prior to this award, Engr. Pedro had been a consistent achiever having won several other awards in 2008 as follows: General Awards, Appreciation for Creative Innovation in Ideas, Asoka 2008 (Dubai-UAE), 1st runner up, Safety Category for Ideas, Asoka 2008 (Dubai-UAE), Outstanding Contribution into Real Estate Development 2008 (Philadelphia-USA). Engr. Pedro started his career manager from supervisory level in 2000. After finishing his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree in TIP in 1990, Engr. Pedro worked as a draftsperson in Manny Villar's KDC company. He built the Camella and Palmera Homes. He took and passed the board examinations in 1991. Since then he has worked in risk management and insurance by surveying the underwriting insurance industry with Malayan Insurance Assessment Corp. Pedro is working as a senior manager for the Malayan Insurance Co. Inc. Engr. Pedro is married to Dahlia Lindell Rob Investitec (UAE). The Bagong Bayani Awards are tribute to the country's outstanding Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) at the rare because of one time. This is in recognition of their significant efforts in fostering goodwill among the different peoples of the world, enhancing the image of the Filipino as a competent and responsible worker, and contributing to the nation's foreign exchange earnings.

CEU Malolos Pharmacy students top National Pharmacy Quiz Bee 2009

CENTRO ESCOLAR UNIVERSITY MALOLOS PHARMACY STUDENTS were declared champions at the concluded National Pharmacy Quiz Bee 2009 held at the ISAT Convention Hall. Team CEU Pharmacy composed of Ronald Mauro Sabellano, Joyce Ann Ramos, Agnes Trinidad, and Lloyd Abraham Reyes, bested 11 other schools from all over the country. CEU Malolos Pharmacy has only joined the National Pharmacy Quiz Bee twice. Last 2007 they bagged the 2nd place.

AMA Hi Sikul Idols 2010 off to a good start

THE SEARCH FOR THE AMA HI-SIKUL IDOLS 2010 BEGINS! ICON AMA Education System (AMES), the largest network of private schools and colleges, has set out an initiative to different high schools all over the country to participate in AMA Hi Sikul Idols 2010, Season 3 dance competition. There will be 21 semi-finals in 21 different areas all over the country and a grand season will be set to be held in Metro Manila which will be hosted by one of the AMA schools. The 21 different areas are determined by the presence of the different AMES schools nationwide. The champion dance team per area will battle it out in the AMA Hi Sikul Idols 2010 Ultimate Challenge at the Araneta Coliseum on March 25. To qualify, the participants must be a group of eight to ten (8-10) year high school students performing a 3 to 5 minute dance number to music of their choice. Songs can be of rock, of female or a mixed group of males and females. Cash prizes and trophies await the three top winners who are also set to be the first top winners of the Hi Sikul Idols. The winners above the minimum grade point average will receive cash prizes. The national competition, leading to the Ultimate Challenge of the big dance, will be held in the different leading malls to allow each school's rooting their own cheering squad. AMES has 200 campuses nationwide with eight learning institutions — AMA Computer University, AMA International Business College, AMA Computer Learning Center, AMA International Institute of Technology, St. Augustine College of Kenning, St. Augustine School of Nursing, St. Augustine International School and AMA School of Medicine.

Colegio de San Juan de Letran presents AdSpeak

COLEGIO DE SAN JUAN DE LETRAN, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE Advertising Foundation of the Philippines, presents AdSpeak – A Student Communication Skills Competition. The first of its kind in the San Francisco District, AdSpeak 2010 is expected to be participated in by communication students from various colleges and universities in Metro Manila. It aims to encourage the country's future communicators to promote values through new society-conscious advertising. The resource speakers for AdSpeak '10 are the movers and makers of the advertising industry. Betty Abreu, chair of McCann Worldgroup Asia-Pacific, Jaime Dimanlig, vice chair and chief marketing officer of TBWA Philippines, Manuel Mangahas, creative partner and board member of BBDO Guerrero, Magalis Perez, Manila Manager, president of Dentsu Philippines, and head of corporate communications, MR. DON. Interested students may visit http://www.ans.com.ph/adspeak2010/article-5.mgphp.

Southville nabs twin wins

STRAIGHT FROM WINNING THEIR TWIN WINS IN THE INTERNATIONAL Schools Activities Conference (isac) boys and girls volleyball division, Southville International School and Colleges' athletes clock more titles. Hence the team's name: wallpaving Philippine School Biñan as the girls' medalist finals held in Bond International School-Baguio last Jan. 21-23. Meanwhile, the boys' football team, placed third in the same tournament. Making it to the meet's all-star teams were Alyanna Ong and Mike Oyena in girls' basketball, and John Taylor and Rocky Reelo in boys' football. isac is the annual sports competition among international schools in the country.

Informatics shines in collegiate badminton

THE INFORMATICS GLADIATOR TEAM MADE AN IMPRESSIVE showing at the 2010 badminton competition of the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Nasuc). The Nasuc, composed of 12 colleges and universities, is a non-varsity meet. Informatics International College dominated the recently concluded badminton division, garnering the following awards: champion, men's singles; champion, men's doubles; 2nd place, mixed doubles; and 4th place, ladies doubles. "We're very proud of our students," says Informatics VP Stephen Salvacion. "I'm happy to see that they are not just excelling in academics, but also in sports." The Informatics badminton team is composed of the following members: Paul Xavier "XK" dela Cruz, Prince John Gomez de Jesus, Jerimiah Rivas, and Darylle Dave Pili. Also in as one last season's men's singles champion, while this season's title was won by Prince de Jesus. The team is coached by Romil Billones.

Lyceum excel in Nursing, PT board exams

LYCEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES UNIVERSITY (LPU) IN BATANGAS CITY once again proved that a provincial school is already taking the lead, leaving even the biggest universities in the country. In the November 2009 Nursing Licensure Examination, LPU's Bryan Noel C. Ilustrisimo emerged as salutatorian – among the 37,027 passers out of 94,402 takers. Also obtained a rating of 87.85 percent, close with the first placer's 87.90 percent. Meanwhile, another Lyceum topnotcher in the person of Robert O. Dela Cruz landed garnered the eighth highest place, with a rating of 86.80 percent. LPU graduated 687 takers and 511 passers, with a 74.38 percent passing percentage far above the national passing rate. In the January 2010 Physical Therapy Board Exam, on the other hand, LPU's Mary Grace G. Castillo also proved that Lyceum take the lead in PT education as she bagged the sixth place. Indeed, Lyceum of the Philippines University is a certified home of board topnotchers.

MSEUF students bag championship in contests

TEAM (1) FROM MANUEL L. ENVERGA UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION (MLEUF) IS supremacy in the Caloocanon Regional IT Expo' Bee sponsored by the Philippine Society of Information Technology Educators held at the Manuel Colleges in Caloocan, Laguna Jan. 22 celebrating 10 other higher education institutions. The team is composed of Cindy Pineda, Players, John Lenston Philip Planas, Eleazar Valencia and Ryan Jay Bermudez, as the team coach. The team posted its third consecutive victory in another development, the Enverga University (1) team topped the computer quiz bee in the Association of Higher Education Institutions' (Ahei-1) Regional IT competition held at De La Salle-Lipa, Batangas Jan. 23 where Enverga University's team also topped the championship in the two-people speaking contest. Maxine Ilde, dean for (L. Ahei-1)o, dean of studies of MSEUF-Candelaria campus, was elected president of the Council of Deans for IT Education.

All set for AdU Grand Alumni Homecoming 2010

ALL SEATS ARE SET FOR ADAMSON UNIVERSITY'S (ADU) BIENNIAL Alumni Homecoming on Feb. 13, with festivities from the past 1 p.m. at the SY Grounds. Leading the charge for the reunions the Salonian Celebrity Alumni Association, Inc. (ACAI). The ACAI's grand homecoming promises to be filled with excitement as grand activities have been lined up for everyone. One of these is the launching of the Salonian Alumni Home, a big first for the association. Elections for eight members of the board of directors will also take place, with nineteen officials running a three-year term from 2010 to 2013. Nominations for the elections will be accepted until Feb. 10. Cash prizes and fun will then ran on through the night as awards and games will be held. Among the contests to be fought out will be the Most Well-Attended Chapter, Talentadong Adamsonian Search, Star of the Night, Bingo games, and Pandayang Adamsonian. Tickets for the grand alumni homecoming is at P500 which includes dinner and five Bingo cards. To join the contests, sponsor an advertisement, or inquire about other events, the alumni may call the ACAI office at (02) 524-2011 local 302 or (02) 524-4244 and look for Bee, Judy, and Dalet.

Feati University School of Fine Arts mounts exhibit at NCCA

PROVING THAT THEY ARE AT THE SIXTH CITIES' worthy fine arts schools in the Philippines, the Feati University School of Fine Arts held an exhibition of students and professionals at works at the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Gallery at Intramuros, Manila on Jan. 11 to 21. The exhibit featured artworks by Feati Fine Arts students and faculty as well as guest artists. Guest artists include Josephine Turalba, Jessel Obsioma, Raul Rodriguez and those dido Cruz. Most of the art pieces displayed were acrylics and oils on canvas, sketches, pencil drawings, photos and art installations.

Feati University president Dr. Ing Adolfo Jesus B. Cuyos and School of Fine Arts associate dean Jancy Young headed the ribbon-cutting ceremony. During the opening of the exhibit, National Artist for Theater and NCCA executive director Cecile Guidote-Alvarez encouraged the artists to maximize their potential and achieve beyond just passing fairs and awards. She emphasized that they should create art that is rooted from deep social consciousness more so since the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) declared the Philippines as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Cultural Center for 2010.

One of the main highlights of the opening ceremonies was the performance art by Dido Cruz and guest interdisciplinary installation artist Josephine Turalba. Dido Cruz and Turalba performed a mixed media performance art entitled "Tinuras."

EUREKA! *Queenie N. Lee-Chua*

Evolution, memory aids, numbers

LAST YEAR MARKED THE 150th anniversary of Charles Darwin's groundbreaking work "On the Origin of Species," which detailed his work on evolution. It was also the 200th anniversary of his birth.

Evolution symposia, plays, and parties were held around the world, in the delight of history buffs and paleontologists, and the condescension of biochemists and astronomers.

Four billion years ago, the first signs of life—microbes in the sea—appeared on our planet. And evolution has not ceased since. In the book "Evolution: The Story of Life," Douglas Palmer and Peter Barrett describe fossils, dinosaurs, forests, Neanderthals, insects, fishes—previously all the flora and fauna that ever lived and became extinct, and those that are still on earth today.

Filled with colorful illustrations, the book is based on the latest research and backed by hundreds of photographs of fossil evidence. At one key point in the evolutionary journey—the explosion of life and mass extinction—the pages of the book expand to reveal the details, including the prevalent species. Why did dinosaurs die out?

At the end of the book is an A to Z list of related topics, together with a timeline that encapsulates the entire process.

Barrett is an internationally renowned natural history illustrator, while Palmer is a science writer for the University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education. This book was produced in cooperation with the Natural History Museum, London, which houses one of the world's best natural history collections.

Remembering stuff

Committing things to memory is not easy. Up to now, when trying to recall the number of days in a month, I recite to the old school rhyme:

"Thirty days hath September,
April, June, and November,
All the rest have thirty-one,
Excepting February alone.
And that has twenty-eight days clear
And one day more every leap year."

As for the colors of the rainbow: ROYGBIV (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet). The phrase? My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nine Potatoes (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune). Since Pluto is no longer a planet, I guess I should teach my child a variation....instead of nine potatoes, a serving of noodles will do.

To list missing yet useful hack, "i before e (except after c)." Judy Parkinson lists clever strategies for remembering such things. The title comes from the popular spelling rule which, according to Parkinson, should be replaced by a better one:

"I believe, except after c,
or when combined like a
as in neighbor and weigh,
drop that rule when—i stands
an ah."

Aside from teaching us how to spell "believe" and "vacuum" correctly, this verse now accommodates rules for spelling those words: "feither," "feizure," "species."

To remember the countries of Central America, keep this in mind: first Big Negative Elephants Slowly Consumed Fossil Guacamoles. Belize, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama).

How about mathematics? remember dollar: ICPEF. Remember your ABCs: Alewife, Breathing, Circulation, for aquatic. Basic NICE: Rest, Ice, Compression, Elevation. For cardio victims: Basic FAST: Face to one side of the face drooping, determine(?). Arm: your buddy raise both arms?). Speech: is speech slurred?). Time: time is critical, call 911 immediately).

Filled with fun mnemonics, Wolanow's book is indispensable for every teacher, student, parent, and anyone who needs to memorize stuff.

Numbers

Numbers are not limited to mathematics, but are found in religion, history, fiction, culture. In his entertaining book, "No Easy or Exact Answer," Alex Bellos tries to find "Just Maths." Jayne Buchan describes numbers in everyday life.

We use numbers a lot in language. "The End Degree" originally referred to American police interrogations, usually violent. Now it is used to describe any unethically attractive action, where someone may overplay or being given. "The End degree" about a past act. The phrase comes from the realm of Freemasonry, where admission to the third degree required members to undergo difficult initiations.

"To be an ehrad case" means to be extremely happy. The comes from the United Arab Meteorological Service's system for classifying cloud formations, where case is the highest. Number one is the highest. Ehrad case is the highest (ranging up to 40,000 feet).

Numbers appear in fiction, by Ray Bradbury's novel "Fahrenheit 451," books are banned in an anti-intellectual society. The title comes from the temperature at which paper burns. In Victor Hugo's novel "Les Miserables," the prisoner Jean Valjean's number was 24601, because Hugo was born on June 24, 1802.

Buchan also writes about the golden ratio, pi, numbers, zeros, the 13 percent myth, Chinese lucky and unlucky numbers, the Fibonacci sequence, the binary system, the Money Hell problem, and many other interesting ways numbers impact our lives.

These three books are available at National Book Store and Powerbooks.

Contact the author at lifebooks@yahoo.com.

A 'promdi' school with international aspirations

From page B4

"educational" outfit with international certifications. No corporate independent body should tell us if we're good or not. We also believe in international quality because we are located in LPU-Batangas for the leading university in the area (Pacific region," Laurel said.

Upon adopting TQM, a business management strategy promoting quality awareness in the school's organizations, the university improved its operational and performance and gave everyone access to development opportunities. These moves helped the school raise standards and improve the quality of knowledge passed on to students.

LPU-Batangas has prepared a "road map" towards global competitiveness. At the top of the majors studies are civil engineering, the business as a whole (BSBA), and hotel and restaurant management.

Introduced in the 1990s, it encourages organizational improvement by improving people performance. Same leading Filipino institutions that have received JP certification are the British Council Philippines and De La Salle University-Manila.

Laurel hopes LPU-Batangas will be the first school to get an EP certification.

"We want the LPU school to still be a stronger human resource aligned to our vision. We really want to be the first to carry out people management. When we become better employers, we can have better teachers giving our students better education," Laurel said.

LPU-Batangas is also adopting industry-driven curricula for tertiary education. Dialogues with prospective employers enable LPU-Batangas to know what skills and knowledge are required.

Laurel cited the hospitality Dusit Thani of the world-renowned Dusit International chain of hotels. Dusit Thani College, standing "first hospitality institution, will give LPU-Batangas a genuinely international curriculum and academic resource materials for its Bachelor of Science in International Hospitality Administration, specialized in Hotel and Restaurant Management (HRM), Culinary Arts and Restaurant Management, Tourism Management and other normative courses in hotel management.

The college has won 200 international and four international awards, perhaps the most to battle biggest number of culinary arts and HRM students.

Laurel said LPU-Batangas now has enrolled its highest ever number of students in hotel and Hospitality Management, culinary arts and kitchen operations, estate line operations in hotel services, and events line operations in culinary arts. Laurel added that the same number is enrolled in tourism, which, too, is opening a hotel, the Bayleaf, that would be a training hotel. Another one will open in Batangas.

To promote nationalism, LPU-Batangas has various activities to allow students to learn about their culture and heritage. Calling Batangas Dance Troupe is a folk dance group accredited by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. The university was the host school to have its own radio station—101.7 Lyceum Campus Radio—and the first to launch a customized school subscriber identity module for mobile phones—MyLyceum SIM powered by Globe.

"Before my father passed away, his main vision was to make LPU-Batangas into a good school, something that province and the country could be proud of. We've always been guided by that. Hopefully, we have been able to do something that he can be proud of," Laurel said.

LPU-Batangas is in Capitol Site, Batangas City; tele. 043-7104790 and 043-7207370; www.lpu.edu.ph/batangas.edu.ph

New building for Lipa high school

THE GUADALUPE NATIONAL HIGH School in Lipa City received a one-story, two-classroom building from the SM Group of Companies through the SM Foundation. From the two-thousand building, conducted by the foundation's the Department of Education for the year and the 2009 to be constructed by SM under Sophia Aquia a School program.

The foundation also donated architect, desks, ceiling fans and books.

The two-room Balacan Elementary School opened in 1921 with 30 students. In 1994, it became the Balacan Barangay High School (BBHS).

In 2002, with the help of Mayor Vilma Santos Recto, the school acquired the adjacent 8,000-square-meter lot. The school site has 10 sections from first to fourth year and has 22 teachers.

The donation was for both funded years by SM Foundation executive director for education Linda Bautista and Lyn Bernardongan, assistant mall manager of SM City Lipa, to Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos. Ex-Florencia dela Pena, schools division superintendent, Cecilia Bayquen, assistant superintendent; Balacan Elementary school principal Saturnino Mendiola, and PTCA president Progacio Lumas, barangay officials, principals of Lipa high schools, and faculty and students of Balacan's National School.

OLLSN reunion

THE OLP Lady of Lourdes School of Nonoknok (OLLSN) will have a Silver Anniversary Grand Alumni Homecoming Sat., '10, 7 p.m., at the OLLSN Multi-Purpose Hall. The event will feature motorcade, alumni performances, election of new officers of the OLLSN Alumni Association, and launch of its website, alongwithNo1.Com. Teddy Tabanao, 098-9-4211287, or the OLLSN Secretariat, 8098829. Visit http://ollsnnonoknok.blogspot.com or www.facebook.com.

St. Joseph homecoming

THE ST. JOSEPH Technical Foundation will have its 50th Foundation Grand Alumni Homecoming Sat., 27, 5:45 High Tea and Cocktails in Pondayan, Manila. Theme of the event: "Invest to Discover 1981 and 1985 is "Innovations, Re-inventing IT." Call Shel Fernandez, 09999620, Jody Pastilan, 0949 588, Judith Hernandez de Jesus, 0919-5540886, and this issue (upper-levels, 0917-4083878.

Get excellent CAREER TRAINING at MFI Technological Institute
(formerly Manpower Foundation Institute)

Now accepting enrollees for 2010

MFI accommodates requests for customized courses, and corporate trainings

For Inquiries:
Tel. Nos. 634-2978; 633-3623; 633-0756 loc 67 locals 431 & 432
Email: training@mfi.org.ph
www.mfi.org.ph

AUTOMOTIVE / HAC TECHNOLOGY
Auto Engine Electrical
Auto Body Electrical
Car Engine Mechanic
Diesel Engine Mechanic
Basic Car Maintenance
Electronic Fuel Injection Servicing
Refrigeration Mechanic
Automatic Transmission Mechanic
Underchassis Mechanic

MECHANICAL TECHNOLOGY
AUTOCAD
Basic CADCAM
CNC Milling Programming
Lathe Machine Operation
Milling Machine Operation
Gas Welding, Cutting & Brazing
Welded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW)
Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW)

INSTRUMENTATION TECHNOLOGY
Advanced PLC
Programmable Logic Controls
Calibration for Process Instrumentation (DPI)
Electro-Pneumatics (EP)
Hydraulic Industrial Controls (HIC)
Industrial Process Control (IPC)
Pneumatic Industrial Control (PIC)
Industrial Mechatronics Package
Machine Automation Package
Process Automation Package
Level 1 Programmable
Level 2 Programmable
ALLEN BRADLEY (AB) using RSLogix 500 (Customized)

ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY
Practical Electronics
PC Troubleshooting (Motherboard)
Advance Microcomputer
Hardware Servicing (Advance)

Television & Monitor Servicing
Let's Fix a Computer
Practical Cellular Phone Servicing

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
CCNA Exploration - Networking Fundamentals
CCNA Exploration - Routing Protocols and Concepts
CCNA Exploration - LAN Switching and Wireless
CCNA Exploration - Accessing the WAN
Program Logic Formulation
MS OFFICE 2003: (Microsoft Word/Excel/PowerPoint)
Developing Web Animation using Flash
Web Page Designing using Dreamweaver
Macromedia Flash Action Script
Digital Imaging with Adobe Photoshop
Programming in C++
Visual Basic .Net Fundamentals
JAVA Programming Fundamentals (Module 1)
Developing Applications using JAVA (Module 2)
PHP and MySQL
Programming with Microsoft Visual C# .Net
Network Technology
Linux System Administration
Linux Network Administration

ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY
Industrial Electrician
Building Wiring Installation & Maintenance
Advanced Industrial Motor Control
Electrical Installation & Troubleshooting
Motor & Transformer Rewinding
Power Electronics and Drive Systems
Motor Electricians - with FREE materials
Machine High Voltage Safety Course
Basic Occupational Safety and Health (BOSH) (Customized)

PEOPLE & ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT
Preventive Maintenance Systems
Communication Skills Enhancement
Customer Service
Improving Efficiency Effectiveness
Supervisory Development Program
IELTS Review Course

In-House Programs
Corporate & Management Devt. Program
Work Attitude Program
Basic Supervisory Program
Managerial Excellence Program
Team Building Program
HR & OD Programs

The best time to invest is NOW!

MFI Foundation, Inc.
MFI Bldg., Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City

Enriching minds... transforming lives

Prepping future movers, shakers

By Stephen Harvey A. Pasilis
Contributor

SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S most outstanding student leaders are participating in the 12th National Ayala Young Leaders Congress (AYLC) Feb. 9-12 at the San Miguel Corp. Management Training Center in Alfonso, Cavite.

Theme of the three-and-a-half-day event that brings together 81 top college students is "Nice Fugitive(s)."

Keynote speaker is Rina Peñal Jardin, 2009 CNN Hero of the Year and founder of Dynamic Teen Co. (DTC) provides education to street children through the former Aberon (pushcart classroom).

Other forum speakers are Jacob Cordero Gan Dairy Avenue Partners, Manila Water Co. president Ron Mercado, SunAfrica Philippines corporate Jaime Gutierrez Jr., Pribo Pantaleon president Cha-Cha Lanaro, BookEd Philippines founder Greg Bailey, AYLC alumnus Edward Mico Payod of Philippine Business for Social Progress, Lipa City Councilor Lemuel Hernandez, and Jaden Cashen of the United States Agency for International Development Energy and Clean Air Project.

Pru Life UK president Michale McGinn Bickford, Philippines first runner-up Emily Abrera, University of the Philippines Diliman Gilas Ultrasoul and ABS-CBN television host Pia Hontiveros-Paglicawan.

The congress is part of Ayala Group's youth leadership development program Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders. AYLC director Jhiston Montespeld said it "is one of the cornerstones of ayala corporate value of nation-building."

The annual event seeks to "build the confidence and hone the leadership skills of the young leaders, nurture their commitment to integrity and principled leadership, foster their participation and citizenship, and encourage them to become hubbid stewards of their communities and the country's future."

JACKET colors identify AYLC participants of different years.

POSSESSED. Drivers and Operators

OPEN Possibilities

Servant-leaders

The congress aims to give participants a "learning-by-experience" through lectures and panel discussions, outdoor challenge courses and workshops. Every activity is designed to teach "leadership that serves."

"We in the Ayala group of companies believe that leadership founded on integrity and service leads to positive change," said JP Ochoa, Ayala managing director for corporate assistant and AYLC program director.

"The Ayala Young Leaders Congress aims to highlight the tremendous impact that each of these young Filipinos can make and, more importantly, the change we can all make by working together," he said.

Action people

"What we really are looking at is their track record to actually doing something for the community for their school," Ochoa said. "Identify a problem that you noticed in your community. Any wrong answer is, again, no right and you (the question is, have did you do that (?) How did your constituency affect people? Who benefited you?"

After students are nominated by their schools, the documents submitted are screened by hands of the Ayala Group's Talent Management and Recruitment Services. The top 100 nominees are then invited to Ayala Corp. Orientation Day in Makati City for panel interviews.

Key officers in the Ayala Group of Companies help make the final selection, led by Ayala Corp. whole executive Jaime Zobel de Ayala and his son, Jaime Augusto, chair and chief executive officer, and Fernando Zobel de Ayala, president and chief operating officer.

Nominees must be Filipino citizens, 20 years old or younger, from fully regular undergraduate students pursuing a bachelor's degree for the first time, and in the top 20 percentile of their college.

Congress participants are selected on the bases of academic performance, strong record of service to their school and/or community, achievements in interscholastic, national, local or school organizations, and leadership impact.

Of the more 9,81 participants chosen from among 4,836 nominees submitted by 126 academic institutions, 26 are from Luzon, 23 from Visayas, nine from Mindanao and 13 from the National Capital Region.

For the first time, a nominee visit the Philippine National Police Academy are awaiting delegates to the summit.

After the summit, delegates become members of the Ayala Young Leaders Alliance (AYLA), which now has 800 members. The AYLA has 17 local chapters in key cities, and three of her countries in the Philippines and one in Singapore.

Last year, the chapters were mobilized for a relief and rehabilitation work following Typhoons "Ondoy" and "Pepeng."

Joseph Quiroda, program manager and 2008 AYLC delegate, said participating in the congress was like going on a retreat. "It also offered the experience to "very touching and meaningful.

"The most important part is that you're with people of different backgrounds but [who] share a common love for the country," he said.

A 'promdi' school with international aspirations

LIKE HIS FATHER, PRESIDENT Jose P. Laurel who established the University of the Philippines in Manila, the late Jose, Jesus o R. Laurel believed patriotism should be developed as every citizen for his classroom early on.

In 1966, he founded in his home province the Lyceum of the Philippines University (LPU) in Batangas City, then known as Lyceum of Batangas.

It started shortly set out to imbue students with nationalism and love of country, guided by the late president's philosophies... "Servicio et Veritate" (Truth and Service) and "Deum et Patriae" (For God and Country).

PETER Laurel

New realities

While it sought to forge a Filipino identity among students, external realities dictated it should aspire to be global.

Peter Laurel, son of the late founder, said, "The whole of Lyceum is about how to provide [private school] graduates a nationally recognized and internationally accredited educational institution."

He said LPU Batangas had lessons on curriculum university then could compete with the best. Granted university recently by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the university can offer new programs, maintain

curricular innovations and open new campuses to embrace global competitiveness.

LPU Batangas was also given the ISO 9001:2008 certification by Det Nord Bureau Veritas and Level III recognition by Board of and continuing programs by the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA).

Its International Maritime Academy was the first maritime school to get the ISO 9001:2008 certification.

Numbers on

In 2006, PASUCOA listed LPU Batangas No. 1 for having the most number of accredited courses.

"When we become No. 1, people began to notice LPU-Batangas," Laurel said.

He said that the university constantly, for LPU-Batangas' accomplishments. "We have a school guided by international standards in place ... we live and breathe quality assurance and that has brought us to where we are now," he said.

Laurel acknowledged an

» PROMDI 20

LPU BATANGAS' main building where the president holds office

Beloved by the Mangyans

From page 01

Aside from establishing elementary schools, the missions help send Mangyans to college and high school.

At present, 381 are enjoying various forms of scholarships, but thousands of Mangyans from all tribes—Iraya, Alangan, Tadyawan, Bangon, Buhid and Hanunuo—have already benefited from the scholarship program through the years.

Around 800 scholars have graduated and become social workers, lawyers, nurses, and even priests. Others are in the technical-vocational fields.

Supporting the Mangyan Missions are friends of Dimer from his high school and college days. Instead of making funeral donations and barbecue treats, they collect money for the Mangyan scholars, says Dimer.

Blessed

Dimer says he has been blessed with the "right connections" people at the right time, "creating in me the clergy, religious and volunteers, ministry of these Mangyans, who help the mission in its work.

Dimer never fails to remind everybody that this education should have encouraged us both luxuriously and spiritually, so they have many things in common.

Always a man of the cloth, Dimer shoulders every opportunity to teach people that they are all children of God regardless of their religion.

AMAMS with some of his Mangyan friends at the SVD retreat. (CONTRIBUTED)

"All are equal before God," he says. "Let's all walk together to create a beautiful future."

The Mangyan Mission Seminary is at Calavo, Calapan City, tel. 443-2985/048.

(On Jan. 29, Fr. Emil Dimer received the Saint Joseph Pernasalcedo award, given to a SVD member who best exemplifies the priest's dialogue and reconciliation in his mission, following the footsteps of the SVD first missionary, Pernasalcedo.)

SVD AWARDEES. Papal Nuncio Rev. Joseph Edmund Adams (third from left), flanked by SVD Philippines central province superior Fr. Noly Cordero and Mngr. Giorgio Demico, with the recipients and representatives of recipients of the SVD Mission Award: (left to right) Father Peter Yang Hall, Saint John Catholic School, Manila (from left) Fr. Leo Schmidt (St. Arnold Janssen Mission award), Sister Mary Fe Encarnacion (for St. Maria Mission Hospital (Community Mission award), Puerto Princesa City Bishop Pedro Dulay Arigo (Evangelization (Divine Word Mission award), R. P. Manuel Bongayan (for Sanctuary Agung Bahay Pandalan (Vivat Cor Jesu Mission), Fr. Wilhelm Van Rijk (Centennial Mission award), Fr. Roland Aguinaldo (for Saint John the Baptist Mission Shrine (Fr. Peter Yang SVD Mission award), Damaso Reyes (for the Carabao of Mary (Mary Mission award), Fr. Ronald Diener (St. Joseph Freinademetz award) and Fr. Ros Subilla.

INQUIRER IN EDUCATION | abakadahan

Voting vocabulary

THIS LESSON PLAN PRESENTS VOCABULARY WORDS THAT students have been encountering a lot in newspapers because of the May elections. It is targeted at high school students but may also be adapted for use in the upper middle level.

Objective

Students will be able to locate, define and use the words commonly found in newspaper content relating to the 2013 elections.

Materials

Recent newspaper, student activity sheet

Procedure

1. Assign students to read election stories in the papers.
2. Fill in the following words on the board.

Ambassador	Ballot	Candidate
Campaign	Citizen	Election
Party	President	Term

3. Tell the students to locate and encircle all of the vocabulary words in the lessons.
4. Instruct them to define each word and write the best of a dictionary and to use each word in a sentence.
5. Divide the class into teams of the activity sheet.
6. Allow the students to continue to fill in the sheet.
7. Ask: What national and local offices are up for election in May? How do they find out about this? What are your views, based or read information about the elections? What kinds of roles does a campaign manager play during the event?

Extension

Instruct the students to start their own "elections" where they can write election-related words they will encounter from now until May, including their definitions.

Activity Sheet

Directions: Encircle the list of given words. Write the letters below with the ones not encircled.

This _____ season, the Filipino people will be voting to choose the next President of the Philippines to be the official _____ tasked by the laws/political _____ in addition to the President, citizens 15 years of age and older will elect the vice president and 12 senators.

Members of Congress will also _____ to get votes so they can represent a _____ in their constituent city or province. Local leaders to be elected also include the governor, vice governor, mayor, vice mayor and councilors.

All elected officials will serve for a specific amount of time called a _____ of office.

The election is May 2013 for the first time that _____ will be used for _____ scanning and computerized counting right on the voting _____